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CAUTION.—BEWARE OF PIRACY AND IMITATIONS.

CAUTION.—Vice-Chancellor Sir W. Page Wood stated that Dr. J. Collis Browne was, undoubtedly, the Inventor of Chlorodyne; that the story of the Defendant, Freeman, was deliberately untrue, which, he regretted to say, had been sworn to."—See "Times," 13th July, 1864.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—The Minister of Marine has received a telegram from Admiral Courbet announcing that previous to the ratification of the preliminaries of peace the French war vessel *D'Estaing* had captured the Chinese ship *Pingon*, which was sailing under English colours. She had on board seven hundred and fifty soldiers, seventeen officers, and three Mandarins of high rank. She was also carrying official despatches to Formosa, which the captain had time to throw into the sea before his ship was captured.

A telegram from General Brière de l'Isle says he had sent messengers to warn the Chinese of the suspension of hostilities, but that before they were able to place themselves in communication with them, the military Mandarins, who had received no instructions from their Government, attacked Kep on the 14th inst. with two thousand regular troops. The Chinese were repulsed and driven back beyond Bac Le. The French had seven men wounded. The gunboats *Rivière* and *Eclair*, while reconnoitring on the river Claire, were fired upon by the Chinese. A sortie made by the garrison of Hung Hoa dispersed the detachment of the enemy that had attacked the gunboats.

At the Cabinet Council on Thursday, M. Brisson read a letter from M. Clamageran, in which the Finance Minister stated that he was determined to resign. The reason given by the semi-official organs for this unexpected decision is that M. Clamageran found the state of his health precluded him from attending properly to the business of his department, but it is pretty generally known that this is only a pretext, and that the real cause of the resignation is serious disagreement with his colleagues. He considered that the issue of a new loan within a brief period was imperatively necessary. His colleagues did not share that opinion.

GERMANY.—The Emperor intends to bestow another extraordinary distinction on Prince Bismarck in remembrance of his seventieth birthday. A painting representing his Majesty unveiling in Prince Bismarck's palace the picture of the coronation at Versailles is to be presented to the National Gallery in Berlin.

AUSTRIA.—The Vienna correspondent of the *Times*, writing on Tuesday week, says the millennial festival of the Slav apostles Methodius and Cyril has begun in the town of Welehrad, Moravia, where, in a chapel next to the church, is the common grave of the two apostles:—

"The festival properly falls on the 6th, new style, the day of Methodius's death, but the religious period of the celebration is to last until the 4th of October, though the greatest solemnities will be comprised between to-day and the 13th of April, between the 5th and 12th of July, and lastly, between the 13th and 22nd of August. In Russia and Bulgaria these dates will also be observed, but according to the old style. The festival is causing great excitement, for the Roman Catholics, the Greek Catholics, and the Greek Orthodox Church all claim the saints as belonging to their sects, and care will have to be taken to prevent unseemly disturbances among the pilgrims to the tomb.

"Pilgrims have been entering Welehrad in shoals for the last three days. This morning there were more than 15,000 of them, and sleeping accommodation is no more to be had. Beds of straw, upon which to lie down for a few hours, in stables, cowsheds, and barns, have been fetching fancy prices, and last night many pilgrims lay down under extemporised canvas or in the open air. Luckily the night was fine, but to-day it has been raining. The majority of the pilgrims have been Catholic peasants from Bohemia and Moravia. The tomb is in the custody of the Roman Catholic clergy, and this is inducing some of the members of the Greek Orthodox Church to keep ostentatiously aloof."

On the following day the little town received 20,000 visitors, and next morning a single caravan brought 1,200 young girls, all dressed in white. The church, however, is large enough to hold 12,000 persons.

PERSIA.—Ayoub Khan was arrested on Saturday morning, and moved to the Citadel, in consequence of the discovery of correspondence relating to arrangements for his intended escape. The Persian authorities have taken possession of his house.

The Teheran correspondent of the *Standard* says that it is stated that the papers found in Ayoub Khan's rooms confirm unmistakably the suspicions of his complicity in anti-English intrigues in Herat, which led to his arrest. According to a statement received at Vienna from Constantinople, Ayoub Khan intended to make for Kescht, on the Caspian Sea, where a Russian steamer was in waiting to convey him to the camp at Krasnovodsk.

Ayoub Khan is a brother of Yakoub Khan, who succeeded Shere Ali as Ameer of Afghanistan. Ayoub was at that time Governor of Herat, and was known for his hostility to the English. On the abdication of Yakoub in 1879, after the massacre of Sir L. Cavagnari at Cabul, and the installation of the present Ameer, Abdur Rahman Khan, Ayoub, who aspired to the Ameership, marched against Candahar with a large force. General Burrows went to oppose him, but was deserted by part of his troops, who went over to Ayoub, and he suffered a disastrous defeat at Maiwand, and was compelled to fall back on Candahar, which was thereupon invested by Ayoub in July, 1880. Sir Frederick Roberts then undertook his famous march, and completely routed Ayoub at Mazra in September. After his defeat Ayoub Khan returned to Herat. Popular feeling was stirred up against him, and eventually Herat was retaken from him by Abdul Kudus, and he himself fled into Persia with a small following. He is said to have been in communication with the Russians in their advanced outposts in Turkestan.

EGYPT.—Lord Wolseley arrived at Cairo on Saturday night, and is staying at the palace of Kasr Noussa, which the Khedive has placed at his disposal. Lady Wolseley had previously arrived. Lord Wolseley leaves shortly for Souakim, but says he has no idea of abandoning the autumn campaign in the Soudan, for which he is making every preparation.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* says there is a general impression in military circles that the Soudan garrisons will be withdrawn. It is estimated that the Nile garrisons could be concentrated at Dongola in eleven days, and be on board three weeks later. Out of a total British force, exclusive of Australians and Indians, of 26,400, only 955 are on the sick list.

On Monday a reconnaissance was made to Otao, where good water was found, besides other wells on the road. The natives there showed themselves friendly, and offered supplies for sale. Negotiations continue with the Amaras, but they still refuse to come in unless guaranteed protection.

Another reconnaissance was made to Otao on Tuesday by Mr. Brewster, with a party of friendly natives. They saw no sign of the enemy. The water-supply there is abundant, and of good quality. On Wednesday the same party, with some mounted infantry, were to go across the lower slope of the hills to intercept Ahmed Sadoun, the chief of those Amaras who are hostile. He is reported to be near Hasheen with a force of about a hundred and fifty men.

The Scots Guards, with two guns, a squadron of the 5th Lancers, and a company of Engineers, occupied Otao at noon on Thursday, having met with no resistance. The natives round Dongola report that in consequence of the British troops having occupied the places upon which Osman Digna depended for his supplies of water and forage, the whole of the rebel force has dispersed.

Deserters who have arrived at Souakim report that Osman Digna has retreated to Erkowit. Food is very scarce in Berber. News has reached Dongola to the effect that Senaar is still holding out, and that large forces have been sent from Khartoum to Kordofan by the Mahdi's order. A large consignment of railway plant, destined to extend the Nile line to Farik, near Dal, arrived at Alexandria from England on Tuesday. It is announced from Cairo that Lord Wolseley will not proceed to Souakim, but will probably return to England. Orders have been sent to the Mudir of Senheit to deliver up that town to King John of Abyssinia before the end of this month.

There is something, the Souakim correspondent of the *Times* says, distinctly comic in the manner in which it is now proposed to communicate with Osman Digna. Not being able to find him, or get at him, or get him to come to or at us by terrestrial means or terrestrial messages, it is now intended to reach him through the air. Letters are being prepared by General Graham and Colonel Chermside, addressed to Osman Digna, inviting him and his fighting men to come to terms. The letters will be sent up in a balloon and dropped at Tamai and Tamanieb.

General Graham has issued a proclamation urging the rebels to submit, and to send in provisions and cattle, for which they will receive payment, or otherwise take the consequences.

The progress of the railway at Souakim continues steadily. The troops are expected to occupy Otao, eight miles further, and perhaps even Tambouk, this week. The force, which consists of 502 officers and 11,000 non-commissioned officers and men, has about four per cent. sick. A camel corps of 400 picked men is to be formed. The wells at Handoub have been found to be contaminated by the neighbouring Arab graveyards, and will only be used for the animals, condensed water being supplied for the men. An official denial is given at Cairo to the statement of the recall of the Camel Corps. Italian troops from Massowah have occupied Arafali, Annesley Bay.

A report has reached Dongola from Kordofan that the Mahdi sent 11,000 men, with twenty-five flags, under Wadel Nusumi, from Khartoum to El Obeid against the insurgents. This force was utterly routed by Abdullah El Safia, who attacked the Mahdi's troops in two columns. The Kordofan insurgents are said to include some of the Mahdi's best men. The Mahdi announces that he will not attack Dongola until after Ramadan, three months hence. He has gone to the scene of hostilities, leaving an Emir to govern Khartoum and district. On Sunday two Egyptian soldiers, deserters from the Berber garrison, surrendered at Merawi, saying that they had deserted when the enemy (2,000 men, armed with rifles) fell back from Berti two days before upon Berber, owing to the scarcity of food. The faces of the deserters were pinched and haggard, and their clothes in rags. The news of General Graham's battles near Souakim reached Berber some days ago. The natives report that Osman Digna is desirous of falling back upon Berber. The river is still falling rapidly.

Two of General Gordon's soldiers, who were sold for slaves, but escaped, arrived at Dongola on Saturday. They state that Faragh Pasha told the Mahdi to send a force to the Khartoum gate, which faced the Blue Nile. General Gordon's soldiers observing, however, the approaching of the rebels repulsed them, and prevented Faragh Pasha from opening the gate. The Pasha thereupon wrote to the Mahdi, advising him to attack the east gate on the White Nile. The rebels accordingly attacked on that side, and the Egyptians fled. Faragh Pasha immediately opened the gate to the rebels, who entered the palace, killing General Gordon as he was coming out. The traitor was himself killed afterwards on telling the rebels that there was no treasure in Khartoum.

A Greek merchant who arrived on the 4th inst. at Massowah says that he has escaped from Kassala, and that the garrison were at the time he left still holding out, although painfully short of food. The enemy had almost entirely abandoned the siege of the town. According to news received at Souakim, it is not clear whether from the same source, the garrison on the 20th ult. had plenty of ammunition, as well as provisions for one month. There was a hope of getting a thousand ardebs of dourra from the village of Holini.

INDIA.—On Sunday morning the Ameer left Rawul Pindi on his return, being previously invested with the Grand Cross of the Star of India, with which distinction he appeared highly gratified. The *Daily News* correspondent says the negotiations have run off without the slightest hitch. The strictest secrecy is still maintained, but the prevalent belief is that a treaty has been or will be signed.

The Viceroy started from Rawul Pindi on Monday night to meet the Maharajah of Cashmere at Lahore. On Sunday the Duke and Duchess of Connaught left Rawul Pindi for Meerut. The Commander-in-Chief had already left for Simla, the military preparations having been fully matured for all emergencies. War preparations throughout India continue apace, and large supplies of food, forage, ammunition, &c., are being sent forward to Pishin. It is computed that 60,000 Anglo-Indian troops will be ready to cross into Afghanistan within a few weeks. Unfortunately transport is incomplete. The Government has ordered the Third and Fourth Army Corps to be immediately placed upon a war footing, and the regiments comprising these divisions are now busily organising, with a view to taking the field. The Indian Government is now waiting orders from the Home Government.

Lord Dufferin arrived at Lahore on Wednesday. Replying to an address of welcome from the municipality, his Excellency spoke as follows:—"Coming freshly from an important interview with the Ameer of Afghanistan, whose dominions have, as far as I have been able to ascertain, been the scene of an unprovoked attack, it is a great satisfaction to me to find the princes and people of India ready with one accord to rally round the standard of Great Britain, even at a distance from their own frontier. As yet it is impossible to say in what way the present grave crisis will end; but be sure that if war breaks out it will be in spite of the earnest and anxious endeavours of the British Government to avert so dire a result, and in defiance of the most moderate and conciliatory conduct on their part."

CANADA.—The Philadelphia correspondent of the *Times*, telegraphing on Tuesday, says:—"General Middleton's advanced detachment is crossing the Great Salt Plain, and is within thirty miles of Humboldt. But, as Riel's advance-guard has crossed the Saskatchewan to the eastward, he moves cautiously, scouts preceding him. The rumour of a contest, attended with loss of life, is as yet unconfirmed. General Strange is massing an expedition at Calgary, to march northward towards Edmonton. The state of affairs at Fort M'Leod has become more reassuring. Mr. Joseph Royal, who went to the North-West on a conciliatory errand, returned to Ottawa on Monday, having been unsuccessful."

Serious news has arrived from Battleford. The Indians reappeared on Tuesday in large numbers in the vicinity of that place, and signal fires were seen from the fort in every direction. Men who have been used to Indian warfare consider this an ominous sign. It is not known whether the Indians have been to Fort Pitt. Five hundred troops are making forced marches across two hundred miles of prairie, marsh, and wooded hills to the relief of Battleford.

According to Cape news of the 25th ult. the Bishops delegated by the Church Council of Natal to elect and consecrate a Bishop to succeed the late Dr. Colenso have refused to comply with the request.

In forwarding to Earl Granville a copy of the Greek Budget for 1885, with a report upon the finances of the country, Mr. Nicolson says:—"The estimates for revenue show a small surplus over those for expenditure. I should call your Lordship's attention to the relatively heavy burdens which the debt charges and the Army impose on the country. Unless the conversion of some of the loans occurs it is to be feared that the Budget for 1886 will have to devote a still larger sum to the payment of interest on the debt, which already amounts to an annual charge of over £1,000,000. Certain further obligations will have to be incurred to abolish the forced paper currency at the end of the year. With regard to the Army, I have pointed out, in dealing with the Army Budget, the serious drain the annual supply of recruits is upon the country, which suffers from want of hands. The proportion the army bears to the whole population is greater than it is even in Germany. In the last few years Greece has made very considerable progress, and a large portion of this merit is due to the present Government. Much still remains to be effected; improvement is wanted in all branches of the Administration, and the country is yet on the threshold of industrial and agricultural development. It is impossible to avoid deprecating the rapidity with which Greece has accumulated debt, and the expenditure she is incurring for military purposes. A country with a sparse and slowly-increasing population, with industries still in their infancy, with a considerable portion of her wealth and well-being dependent on the successful issue of her summer crops, should proceed very gradually and cautiously. Her expenditure, in short, should wait upon her revenue. The present year has been an unfortunate one for Greece. The all-important currant crops suffered severe damage owing to inclement weather, and there is a crisis in the financial world and depression in commercial affairs. It is to be hoped that the energy, ability, and honesty for which the present Government are distinguished will steer the country safely into calmer waters."

The statement made not long ago that the King of Saxony had offered to the British Government the gem of his picture gallery at Dresden, the celebrated "Madonna di San Sisto," appears (says the *Manchester Guardian*) to be correct. The sum asked is £150,000. The Madonna is one of the most wonderful creations of Raphael's genius. According to Vasari it was executed for the principal altar of St. Sixtus at Piacenza—at least, it was there in Vasari's time, and was only removed to Dresden in the last century. The Virgin appears as the Queen of Heaven, in a brilliant company of cherubim, standing in the clouds with the infant Son in her arms. St. Sixtus and another saint kneel at the sides. A curtain, drawn back, encloses the picture. On each side underneath is a light parapet, on which lean two beautiful angels. The work was executed about 1517-18.

Painted windows as memorials of departed worth have more than ordinary interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor (late O'Connor) has at all times pleasure of showing his various works for church and hall in progress, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates free. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

General Komaroff's account of the incidents leading to the fighting at Penjdeh of the 30th ult. was published at St. Petersburg on Sunday in French in the semi-official *Journal de St. Pétersbourg*, and in Russian in the *Official Messenger* and *Invalide*. The two versions (the correspondent of the *Standard* says) differ considerably. The former, much the fuller of the two, is dated "Dash-Kepri, April 1," and is as follows:—

"On the 25th March our detachment neared Dash-Kepri. On our bank of the Kushk, near the bridge, I found an entrenchment occupied by Afghans. To prevent a conflict I stationed my troops at a distance of five versts from the Afghan position. *Pourparlers* with Captain Yate commenced on the 26th. When the Afghans had made sure that we did not intend to attack them, they began, day by day, to draw nearer our camp. On the 27th they sent against one of our companies, which had been told off to cover a reconnaissance, three companies with one gun and some cavalry. Their audacity and arrogance gradually increased. On the 28th they occupied a height commanding the left flank of our camp, began to entrench there, established a cavalry post in the rear of our line, and stationed a picket within musket-fire of our ford.

"On the 29th I summoned the commander of the Afghan detachment energetically to evacuate by nightfall the left bank of the Kushk and the right bank of the Murgab as far as the mouth of the Kushk. I received for reply that, by the advice of the English, he refused to withdraw beyond the Kushk. I addressed him yet another private letter, couched in friendly terms, on the 30th; and to support my demands I marched with my detachment against the Afghan position, still relying upon a peaceful issue. But an artillery fire and a cavalry attack on the part of the Afghans compelled me to accept battle, with the result already known."

According to the *Official Messenger*, General Komaroff has forwarded to St. Petersburg a despatch stating that the remnant of the Afghan detachment which was defeated in the engagement on the Kushk River has fled to Herat. The camp at Bala Murghab, which was abandoned by Sir Peter Lumsden, has been burnt by the Afghans, the camels, with the provisions and baggage, as well as part of the British escort, being driven away by the Sariks. In order to prevent anarchy, a provisional administration is being organised in Penjdeh, but, in General Komaroff's opinion, there is no necessity for a forward movement at present.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Daily News* is told that the conflict on the Kushk River happened in the following way. The correspondent cannot guarantee the exactitude of this story, but he says that his authority is usually well informed:—

"Some English officers who were with the Afghan outposts sent an invitation to the Russian officers on the other side to breakfast with them. The Russians thanked them, but answered that they could not accept the kind invitation, because, as they said, they were already at home. They invited instead the English officers, who went and stayed until late into the night. Then they asked for and received an escort in order to return to the Afghan camp. General Komaroff, when informed of the incident, dressed some intelligent officers in privates' uniforms and sent them with the escort so as to obtain some information about the Afghan forces. When the Russians arrived in the Afghan camp some of the soldiers there observed that one of the escort took notes in a pocket-book. They wished to take the book from him. A struggle began, and a shot was fired; but it was not known on which side. The escort hurried back to the Russian camp, where the troops were immediately called to arms. A considerable Russian force moved next morning against the Afghans."

Major Holdich, R.E., chief of the geographical section of Sir Peter Lumsden's Commission, in the latest notes sent home by him describing the country which is now the scene of operations, says:—

"Five miles south of Pul-i-Kishti the hills on the right bank of the Kushk river cease trending away round to the left of the Murghab river, and leave a well-defined delta to fill in the fork between the two rivers. This delta is a kind of steppe, for the rivers run in narrow valleys some 100ft. below it, and out of this valley rises Ak Tapa. The top of Ak Tapa is on a level with the steppe. Ak Tapa is distinctly the strongest and most strategical position in the country. It dominates all the roads to Herat which diverge from the head of the Kushk and Murghab rivers, and it bars the way to the entrance of the two finest and most fertile valleys north of the Paropamisus. The Murghab is a deep and impassable river near Ak Tapa, between 50ft. and 70ft. wide. The ruins of the old Penjdeh fort are some five miles north of Ak Tapa, on the left bank of the Murghab, and the new fort is a mile further north. The latter is not remarkable in any way."

It is probable that Dash-Kepri, whence General Komaroff's despatch is dated, is in the vicinity of Band-i-Nadur, where there is a dam across the Murghab. Concerning Maruhak, on which place the Afghans fell back when driven from Penjdeh, Major Holdich says it is the only place of importance between Penjdeh and Bala Murghab. There is the largest fort there that he has ever seen, and the remains of a brick bridge that could be reconstructed. Bala Murghab is some distance south, forty-one miles from Penjdeh. It has a fort in a very good state of preservation, which is occupied by the Ameer's troops. Concerning Herat, Major Holdich says it could be invested without much difficulty. Villages, affording capital cover for an enemy, cluster round it right up to the foot of the mud walls.

Sir P. Lumsden has retired still further to Tirpul, on the high road from Meshed to Herat. During his march on the 4th inst., while crossing the Safed Koh range there was a severe snowstorm in which seventeen camp followers and fifty transport animals perished. Many tents and a large quantity of officers' baggage were lost, and have not yet been recovered. It is hoped that the principal records will be saved.

The *Daily News* puts the present strength of the Afghan army at 45,400 infantry, 16,100 cavalry, and 222 guns.

According to a letter from the *Standard* correspondent with the Frontier Commission, dated

Thursday week, the Afghan defeat has produced a profound impression, not only among the Afghans themselves, but among the Persian population near Tirpul. A number of fugitives have arrived there, bringing with them some wounded. The weather was very stormy, and the rivers swollen.

In a letter by post, dated Gulran, the 29th February, the same correspondent discusses the moral effect of the Russian advance. He says:—"The Afghans watch the situation with the utmost anxiety, and it may safely be concluded that on our loyalty now to them depends henceforth their loyalty to us. The Afghans certainly detest the Russians; and, although they love us but little and heartily wish that neither Englishmen nor Russians should take possession of their country, they prefer England, for they know more of her rule, to Russia." The movement of the mission to Gulran, to both Afghans and Turkomans, looked like a flight, but its position at Penjdeh would have been critical in the event of a not unlikely conflict between Afghans and Turcomans. The correspondent is convinced that the relations between Turkomans and Afghans "are not cordial, and may be disturbed at any moment. The cloud which has come over our country's *prestige* has not only descended on the political horizon, but it has cast its shadows further. Delicate as the position is, Sir Peter Lumsden brings an extraordinary knowledge and grasp of the political conditions existing in Central Asia to assist him, either in guiding the mission or advising Government. Whilst I, with other correspondents, protest against the restrictions placed on communications, we lay the blame, not on General Lumsden, who is loyally carrying out his instructions, but on those who have issued these instructions. Yet information of importance—however embarrassing it may be to any party—will not be concealed." He afterwards heard "that an officer of the mission of Ak Robat has had some intercourse with the Russian officer in charge of the Russian outposts; they have dined together; but as the English officer cannot speak French, and the Russian officer cannot speak English, their conversation has not been great; they have communicated by signs. I am afraid the Afghans will scarcely understand this social intercourse with their and our rivals, and they may misunderstand it in an unpleasant way. Not much hospitality has been shown to the Afghans. I think more might be and ought to be shown. It is not too much to expect of Englishmen to suppress their prejudices, or feelings let it be, for a few months, in the interests of their country."

The *Morning Post* says:—"The financial difficulties of Russia are now known to be extreme, and the formal bankruptcy of the Russian Government is expected as the inevitable result of a great war. The desperate stress of the Russian Treasury has led the Government to propose the extraordinary measure of imposing a tax of 5 per cent. upon the interest of the foreign debt. In Germany the proposal to tax the coupon has produced the strongest excitement among the German financiers, who have been the principal supports of Russian credit of late. Urgent remonstrances have been addressed to the Russian Government from the great financial centres at Frankfort, Berlin, &c. In a strongly worded article on the threatened taxation of the coupon, the *Allgemeine Zeitung* declares that such a step will destroy the belief that Russia would, under all circumstances, keep faith with the foreign creditor, and warns the Russian authorities that it will be fatal to Russian credit. To defraud the foreign creditor of 5 per cent. of his income in order to lighten the burden of internal taxation is declared to be the sure forerunner of repudiation and public dishonour. As German finance has mainly kept up Russian credit, it is felt that the straits of the Czar's Government must be extreme before risking the alienation of such indispensable support."

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* says:—"The opinion is now heard everywhere in Vienna that the Russians are continuing their advance, and that in a few days we may learn that Herat itself has been occupied. The *Neue Freie Presse* publishes an article by a distinguished Austrian Staff officer, who discusses the military situation and says:—'The question as to who is to blame for the collision on the Kushk is immaterial, since the Russians have been victorious and have attained the strategical object at which they aimed. Ak Tapa and Penjdeh are in nobody's possession, but they are within reach of the cannon of Komaroff, who may occupy them at any moment. Weighed against this fact, the alleged moderation of the Russians is of little worth, for the Afghans are assuredly so much intimidated that they will take no steps to recover the lost territory. The Russians may now occupy Herat as soon as they please. The Afghans will not oppose them, and the heads of the English columns are at least 150 German miles off.' It must be added (the correspondent continues) that whereas a month ago it was the almost unanimous opinion in Vienna that Russia was not prepared for war, and would come to terms if resolutely confronted with an ultimatum, it is now generally remarked that the dilatory negotiations have spoiled England's chance, not only by allowing the Russians to score a valuable military success, but by enabling occult diplomatic influences to complete the isolation of England."

In an interview with a representative of the Central News on Thursday M. Lessar said, with regard to the statement that the cession of Penjdeh formed the basis of the Russian demands, that it was undoubtedly true that his Government were firm on that point, for with Penjdeh in the possession of the Afghans, who were strong enough to hold the Turcomans in check, there could be no prospect of a durable peace. On the other hand, the possession of Penjdeh by the Russians would obviate all difficulties with regard to a final delimitation of the frontier, and at the same time secure to the inhabitants of the districts immunity from Turcoman raids and the enjoyment of civilised government. It would be premature to say that the Russian views with regard to this place had been favourably received by Her Majesty's Government, but there was now a clear prospect of an arrangement satisfactory to both Powers being arrived at.

Gas Superseded by Daylight.—See Chappuis' patents. 69, Fleet-street.

IRELAND.

The Prince and Princess of Wales on Saturday inspected the North Wall Extension Works, and her Royal Highness christened the Alexandra Basin. The Prince also replied to an address. At Trinity College, which was next visited, the Prince and Princess had an enthusiastic reception, and in replying to an address his Royal Highness alluded to the loss that institution had sustained by the death of its Chancellor, Lord Cairns. Their Royal Highnesses afterwards paid a visit to the Artisans' Industrial School, where the boys gave them a hearty welcome. About half-past six the Prince of Wales, attended only by his equerry, left the Castle and visited the United Service Club, several public institutions, and three or private friends. In the evening a State dinner was held at the Castle, among those present being the Lord Chancellor and Lady Sullivan, General Sir Thomas Steele, Lord Clarina, Mr. W. Campbell-Bannerman, Chief Secretary; the Archbishop of Dublin and Lady Plunket, the High Sheriff for the County Dublin, Lord Annaly, the Earl and Countess of Belmore, the Earl of Courtown, the Earl of Carysfort, the Earl of Clonmell, the Earl and Countess of Cork, the Marquis and Marchioness of Drogeda, the Marquis and Marchioness of Headfort, Lord and Lady Inchiquin, the Earl and Countess of Kenmare, Viscount and Lady Powerscourt, and many others. On Sunday morning the Prince and Princess attended Divine service in the Chapel Royal.

The Prince of Wales on Monday presented new colours to the Cornwall Light Infantry. His Royal Highness, with the Princess and Prince Albert Victor, afterwards left by train for Lord Listowel's seat at Convamore. At Mallow, where the train stopped for an address to be presented to their Royal Highnesses, Mr. O'Brien, M.P., assisted by Mr. Deasy, M.P., Mr. J. O'Connor, M.P., and Mr. Harrington, M.P., had organised a hostile demonstration; but the railway authorities ordered the platform to be cleared, and as resistance was offered the constabulary had to resort to force. When the Nationalists were turned out of the station they awaited the arrival of the Royal train and groaned, their bands playing "God Save Ireland"; but the noise was scarcely heard within the station, where the Prince and Princess had a very warm greeting. After an address had been presented, their Royal Highnesses continued their journey to Convamore.

The Prince and Princess of Wales left Lord Listowel's seat, at Ballyhooley, on Tuesday morning, and proceeded on a short visit to the Marquis of Waterford, at Curraghmore. At the stations through which the Royal train passed their Royal Highnesses had a respectful welcome, only one unpleasant incident, a demonstration of some evicted tenants, marring the whole journey. At Lismore the Prince was presented with an address, signed by many of the working classes in the surrounding counties, asking from his Royal Highness the same interest in their behalf as he bestowed upon the artisans of England. In the afternoon the Prince and Princess returned to Convamore.

The Prince and Princess of Wales paid a State visit to Cork on Wednesday, and were well and loyally received, though there were here and there some slight signs of discontent. At Haulbowline the Royal party lunched, and the Prince, in responding to the toast of his health, said his reception in Ireland had been very gratifying. The Prince and Princess returned in the evening to Convamore. In the evening some disturbances took place in the streets of Cork, and stones were thrown at the police, who charged the people several times, and some people in the crowd were wounded with the bayonet. The stone-throwing continued till midnight, the police patrolling in large numbers.

The Prince and Princess of Wales left Convamore, near Mallow, on Thursday morning for Killarney. Before leaving, their Royal Highnesses each planted a tree in front of the house as a memento of their visit. Lord and Lady Listowel bade their Royal guests good-bye at Ballyhooly station, where a small crowd gave the Prince a respectful reception. At Killarney station and within the town a cordial greeting was extended, mingled with only very slight hissing. Their Royal Highnesses drove to Kenmare House, and remain the guests of Earl Spencer until Monday.

The death of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, Sir Edward Sullivan, took place suddenly, on Monday. His Lordship was transacting business in Dublin Castle in the morning, and after returning home to his residence, 32, Fitzwilliam-place, was seized with an attack of gout in the stomach. Medical assistance was immediately obtained, but he died at twenty minutes to six o'clock. He was the eldest son of the late Mr. Edward Sullivan, of Dublin, and formerly of Mallow, and was born in 1822. He was educated at Trinity College, where he distinguished himself by several times obtaining double firsts in classics and science. He belonged to the College Historical Society, in which he won the reputation of being an effective and eloquent debater—a reputation which he retained and extended in after life. In 1848 he was called to the Irish Bar, and in 1858 was made a Q.C., a fact which sufficiently attested his ability and the extent of legal business which he obtained. On the promotion of the late Mr. G. Fitzgibbon, Q.C., to the Mastership in Chancery, he was made Serjeant-at-Law in 1860, law adviser in Dublin Castle in 1861, and Solicitor-General in 1865. In that year he was returned for his native town of Mallow, which he represented up to 1870. In 1868 he became Attorney-General, and in that capacity he discharged the onerous duty of piloting the Irish Church Act and the first Land Act through the House of Commons. On the death of the late Right Hon. Edward Walsh in 1870 he was elevated to the Bench as Master of the Rolls, and continued to fill that important office with great satisfaction to the public until 1883, when, upon the unexpected death of the late Right Hon. Hugh Law after a short illness, he became, in conjunction with Lord Justice Barry and the Lord Chief Baron, a Commissioner of the Great Seal. In December of the same year he was appointed Lord High Chancellor for Ireland. In 1850 he married Bessie Josephine, daughter of the late Robert Bailey, of Cork, by whom he has issue surviving three sons and a daughter. His eldest son, Edward, who succeeds to the title, was born in 1852, and was called to the Bar in 1879. It may be remembered that some few years ago the late Lord Chancellor met with a bereavement which long weighed heavily upon him in the death of one of his sons, who was drowned while boating in Killiney Bay, together with a young lady to whom he was engaged to be married.

The Lord Lieutenant and Countess Spencer arrived at Killarney by mail train from Dublin on Wednesday evening, and were received by the Earl of Kenmare. The band of the Lancashire Fusiliers played "God Save the Queen," and cheers were given by the people assembled in the station. The Earl and Lady Spencer drove through the town, which was gaily decorated, under an escort of the 11th Hussars, to the mansion of the Earl of Kenmare, where they will await the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The Acting Committee of the Protestant Alliance have forwarded to the Chief Secretary for Ireland a memorial protesting against the order published in the *Dublin Gazette* of the 3rd inst., by which all Archbishops of the Protestant Episcopalian Church in Ireland, and all Roman Catholic Archbishops and Bishops in Ireland, are to have in Ireland the precedence which belonged to Archbishops of the Established Church of Ireland before the passing of the Irish Church Act, 1869, and are to take rank *inter se* according to the dates of consecration. The memorialists protest against any recognition by the Government of such assumed rank and precedency as is directed to be observed in Ireland in favour of dignitaries of the Church of Rome holding appointments and titles by the authority of a foreign Power.

At the opening of the Easter sittings in Dublin on Wednesday, the Lord Chief Justice, Chief Justice Morris, the Lord Chief Baron, the Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Fitzgibbon, and Lord Justice Barry referred in terms of highest eulogy to the attributes of the late Lord Chancellor as a lawyer, judge, and statesman, and these references having been re-echoed on behalf of the bar by the Attorney-General, Serjeant Hemphill, Serjeant O'Brien, and Mr. Gibson, Q.C., M.P., the courts adjourned without transacting business as a tribute of respect to his memory.

At a meeting of the Synod of the Church of Ireland on Tuesday a letter from Sir W. Harcourt was read acknowledging a vote of condolence with the Queen on the death of the Duke of Albany. The letter was dated May 19 of last year, and the only point of present interest in it consisted in the fact that whereas the Synod had called itself in the vote "the Synod of the Church of Ireland," the Secretary of State in his reply acknowledged the vote of the "Protestant Episcopal Church in Ireland." Much indignation was expressed by members of the Synod, and a suggestion was made and supported that the letter should be returned. The Archbishop pointed out how ungracious such an act would be, and urged that it would be sufficient to record a resolution of the Synod that the members believed a mistake had been made. Finally the following resolution was adopted:—

That the secretaries be directed to acknowledge the communication received from Sir William Vernon Harcourt, in reply to the letter of condolence addressed by the Synod to her gracious Majesty, and to point out to the writer that the designation given in that communication is incorrect, the proper title of that Church being from very ancient times "The Church of Ireland," a title which was recognised in the Irish Church Act, and to which the General Synod, on behalf of the said Church of Ireland, maintains its rights.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday.

The House of Lords assembled for the first time after the Easter holidays. In the absence of the Lord Chancellor, owing to the death of Lady Selborne, Lord Redesdale presided. Lord Granville paid an eloquent tribute to the memory of Lord Cairns—to his worth as a man, his greatness as a lawyer, and his eminence as a statesman; and he read a passage from a letter addressed to him by the Lord Chancellor in which that noble and learned Lord spoke of Lord Cairns in terms of affectionate sorrow. Lord Salisbury referred to the fitting and graceful manner in which Lord Granville had expressed the sense of the House, and he then in feeling and eloquent language referred to the heavy blow sustained by himself and his political friends in the loss at such a time of such a counsellor as Lord Cairns. Lord Coleridge spoke of the great position achieved by Lord Cairns as a lawyer and a judge. He gave instances of the high-minded principles which guided the noble and learned Lord in making appointments, and in his action towards political and professional opponents.

The Liverpool Cathedral Bill was read a third time, and the Solicitors (Ireland) Bill and the Army Annual Bill were read a second time.

Lord Dalhousie moved the second reading of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, which he explained to be a modified reproduction of a Bill with the same title which was before their lordships' House in two former sessions. Lord Milltown described the Bill as one which would produce a maximum of danger with a minimum of safety. The Bill was read a second time.

Lord Salisbury asked for as much information as the Foreign Secretary could give him with respect to affairs in Afghanistan. Lord Granville had nothing to add on the general question to what was so well stated by Mr. Gladstone last week. He had received from the Russian Ambassador no explanation on the part of the Russian Government itself as to the conflict between the Russians and the Afghans, but the Ambassador had handed him a statement of General Komaroff which appeared in the newspapers of that morning. Her Majesty's Government were in communication on this subject with the Government of Russia.

Their lordships rose at twenty minutes past five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday.

At question time Mr. Gladstone, referring to two inquiries standing in the names of Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett and Mr. O'Kelly as to the demands made on the Russian Government and the proceedings of the Afghans at Pul-i-Khisti, said he was not able to answer any questions of the kind, inasmuch as communications were going on and efforts were being made to elucidate the facts, and it would be detrimental to the public interest to make a statement as to any particular portion of these transactions. Replying to a question which he anticipated from Sir Stafford Northcote, he said that the Government had received a full report of the communications between the Viceroy and the Ameer, and without going into details he assured the House, amid much cheering, that those communications had been both full and completely satisfactory. As to General Komaroff's most recent explanation, he said it had been referred to Sir P. Lumsden, and inquiries were being made which it was hoped would elucidate the varying statements of the Russian and English officers. A further communication also was expected from the Russian Government. Asked as to the communications with Sir P. Lumsden, Lord E. Fitzmaurice said there was a break in the telegraph between Meshed and Teheran, and he could not say how far beyond Askabad the wire had been carried. Messages from Gulran took about seven days, and Sir P. Lumsden had now retired from that point to Tirpul. In answer to a question from Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Gladstone said the Government had not received any intelligence of a Russian advance, but they had received a rumour; and on Mr. Gray asking where this rumour came from, Lord E. Fitzmaurice desired that notice might be given, at which there was much laughter. In answer to Mr. W. H. Smith, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that Messrs. Rothschild, being aware that the Government were committed to the Egyptian Loan Bill, had supplied funds for the current expenses of the Egyptian Government. On the consideration of the Queen's Message relating to the calling out of the Reserves and Militia Reserve, Lord Hartington explained that he had originally expected to place the House in full possession of the views of the Government, but events had recently occurred which had greatly affected the views of the Indian Government as to their military requirements. Communications were going on, but at present it was not possible to give the House information. The vote of credit would be laid on the table next Monday or Tuesday, and a statement would be made which might afford the opportunity for discussion. To defer a discussion, he showed, would be in accordance with precedent. He mentioned that as a large body of the Reserves was to be called out, ft was intended to call them out regimentally, and not by classes. Subsequently, in answer to a question from Lord Percy, he said that more regiments of militia were to be called out, probably those which were attached to regiments of the Line which have two battalions abroad. Sir S. Northcote agreed that the course suggested by Lord Hartington would be the most convenient, but insisted, as a matter of principle, that when a Government proposed a measure of this kind it was bound to explain the policy which it was intended to carry out. Mr. Gladstone, however, doubted whether the mere presentation of the vote would be the best opportunity, and thought it better to wait until the vote came on regularly for discussion. Mr. Labouchere moved an amendment calling for the withdrawal of the force in the Soudan as the best means of increasing the strength of the Army; but Mr. Gladstone again pointed out that the vote of credit was the proper opportunity for discussing the policy of the Government in the Soudan, as to which, he said, he wished to maintain the most complete reserve. Lord R. Churchill spoke in favour of the amendment, urging the Government to accept accomplished facts and to recognise the blunder they had made in sending the flower of the British Army to Souakim. He dwelt with force on the deadly nature of the climate, pointed out that we had neither the Mahdi nor Osman Digna to struggle with now, and insisted that by dissipating our force in the interior of Africa we should encourage Russia to press her demands. Sir G. Campbell agreed that it was an absurdity to lock up the army at Souakim, and Sir H. Wolff asked for some substantial assurance as to the real policy of the Government in relation to the Soudan. Lord Hartington pointed out that the measures which had become necessary for the present operations at Souakim had already been sanctioned by the House after considerable discussion, and, having urged that the Soudan policy of the Government was only remotely connected with the calling out of the Reserves, hoped that further discussion on the subject would not at the present time be pursued. Sir S. Northcote admitted the desirability of postponing further discussion until the vote of credit was asked for. He considered that a division on the Queen's Message was to be deprecated, and contended that the House would expose itself to the charge of levity by accepting the amendment. Mr. Illingworth dilated upon the evils connected with the continued maintenance of an army in the Soudan, and protested against the belligerent views of the Conservative party. Sir W. Hart-Dyke, while deprecating a continuance of the discussion, repudiated the charge made against the Opposition, and insisted that the inconsistencies of the Liberal party had been the main cause of the present campaign in the Soudan. On a division, the amendment was negatived by 148 to 39, and Lord Hartington's motion was agreed to. The House then went into Committee on the Redistribution Bill and proceeded with the consideration of Schedule VII. (Divisions of Counties). Mr. Raikes moved the first of a series of amendments proposing to name the divisions of counties alternately by the points of the compass and the principal towns in the county. This led to a lively discussion, in the course of which Sir C. Dilke expressed a wish that the amendment should be postponed until the report. Sir S. Northcote acquiesced in this suggestion; but after Mr. Walter, Mr. Floyer, Sir H. Vivian, and others had spoken in support of the amendment, Sir C. Dilke acceded to the general feeling of the House and consented to accept the plan proposed. Mr. Raikes also moved an amendment to change the name of the Wisbeach Division of the county of Cambridge to that of the Isle of Ely Division. In the course of a lengthy discussion, Sir C. Dilke maintained that the proposal would necessitate an alteration of the boundaries of the Cambridgeshire divisions. Mr. Bulwer, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Pell supported the amendment, and Sir S. Northcote, although of opinion that the decisions of the Boundary Commissioners ought not lightly to be interfered with, pointed out that this was an exceptional case, and contended that the proposed change of name might be adopted without altering the boundaries of the divisions. The amendment was subsequently

withdrawn to allow Mr. Hicks to move that the Isle of Ely should have separate representation apart from the county of Cambridge, an amendment which, on a division, was negatived by 96 to 26. Some other amendments, especially one relating to Cornwall, gave rise to considerable discussion, and the Committee adjourned until Thursday. The other Orders of the Day having been disposed of, Mr. Talbot moved an Address to the Crown praying that a larger proportion of the grant now given to public elementary schools should be allotted in the form of a fixed payment on average attendance. It would not, he said, involve any increase in expenditure, but merely redistribute the education grant. Children ought to be fitted for the positions in life which they would have to occupy. A great error was made in undervaluing manual labour, and there was a tendency to extol the labour of the head at the expense of the labour of the hand. The total grant to Elementary schools was now £1,308,572, of which sum £1,275,358 was said to be for average attendance. But all that was really given for average attendance was 4s. 6d. per head, which would amount to £255,916. Then the grants to infant schools amounted to £197,139. Thus, the sum of £855,517 represented the payments by results. Payments by results meant payment according to the result of the examination of the children on the day of the inspector's visit. Such a system led inevitably to the overpressure of the children and teachers. The system was condemned by the judgment of those actually engaged in the daily work of Elementary education. The Government themselves admitted the evils of the system by the mode in which they dealt with the infant schools. They examined into the state of the schools and made the grant for every infant presented. They looked to the general well-being of the schools, and gave the grant if that was satisfactory. In foreign countries the system of payment by results was unknown. He did not ask for the abolition of the system, only for its limitation. He was in favour of bringing up children in the soundest way as regarded both body and mind, and in the manner best suited to fit them for their future career.

Mr. Paget, in seconding the motion, said that recent additions to the Code had seemed to offer all schools an opportunity of earning larger grants under the merit grant system; and yet it was found that, so far from increasing the grant, it gave with one hand and took away with the other. In many of these schools where the children came of the poorest parentage, and where the educational requirements were of the strongest, a merit grant was offered if a certain standard of excellence was attained; but the Department stepped in in the case of schools which may have arrived at the highest pitch of excellence it was possible to arrive at, and curtailed the grant simply because it had been too economically earned. If the school accounts could have proved that the expenditure had been a little higher the grant might not have been cut down, but there was an absolute penalty upon efficiency imposed on schools of the poorest class, on which it fell with extreme severity. It had been proved that overpressure existed in our Elementary schools. The system was one which must of necessity impose a great strain on all who were connected with Elementary schools at the moment of examination. The worry to the teacher did not arise so much in the case of the Board schools, which could draw upon the rates; but the Voluntary schools depended on their receiving such an amount of the grant as would enable them to pay their way, and the teachers of those schools were, therefore, much more harassed than the teachers in the Board schools were. As the Board schools were originally intended to supplement and not to supplant the Voluntary schools, the latter had a right to have some reasonable chance of existence, as was promised to them from the first in consideration of their long service in the past. All the children having passed the infant stage were generally bound to advance from standard to standard year by year, otherwise the grants were reduced and the efficiency of the school was held to be failing; but it was impossible among the children of the poor any more than among the children of other classes that they should find the same capacity of advancing from standard to standard at the same rate of progress. If more depended upon attendance and less upon examination, they would secure greater efficiency of education and avoid the over-pressure both of children and teachers.

Sir L. Playfair presumed that Mr. Talbot wished it to be raised to 10s., as had been recommended by the teachers themselves. At present 4s. 6d. was given for average attendance, and 12s. 6d. for educational effort throughout the country. If the sum for mechanical attendance was raised to 10s. it would represent two-thirds of the whole, while only one-third would represent educational effort. The effect of the proposal would be largely to increase the remuneration of bad schools and largely to decrease the remuneration of good schools. In Scotland, where national education had been much longer established and was of a higher kind than in England, and where there was also much more pressure, who ever heard of overpressure? Some 84,000 schoolchildren died every year. Out of that number he should expect to find that 200 or 300 died from overpressure. But only twenty or thirty were alleged to have died from that cause, and when the facts were inquired into, the allegation, except in four or five cases, completely failed. There was from 22 to 23 per cent. less mortality in schools now than in 1870.

Lord G. Hamilton said that Sir L. Playfair had overstated the practical effect of the proposal, and misunderstood the objection to payment by results. This rigid system of payment by results was fair neither to the children nor the teachers. In Scotland the practice of payment by results was grafted on the system of education in that country, and was not a part of it originally. Surely there was no need for this rigid test of all the subjects which were taught. He should like to see it swept away, and to find them going back to the system of some capitation grant based on the average attendance of the children, with liberty to the inspectors to report upon the school generally. By the system of payment by results they subjected the children of the poor to tests to which they did not subject their own children. No doubt the pressure in elementary schools was to a certain extent exaggerated, but every one must be aware that the active brains of children were frequently over-taxed, and that they required relaxation from their studies and change of air, which the poor could not afford. This fact ought to make them most careful not to overpress the children of the poor.

Mr. W. E. Forster said that Lord George Hamilton had stated that they subjected children of the classes which attended Elementary schools to examinations to which their own children would not be subjected. He was not quite sure of that. When they had the same scale of education that they had in Germany it was possible that they might dispense with examinations in elementary subjects. He did not believe that they could altogether get rid of individual examinations, though he felt that it was an evil they were obliged to submit to because the advantages of the system counterbalanced the disadvantages. Mr. Mundella said that in some of the schools where there were the best teachers there was the worst teaching, because there was no proper test of the result. The best test was the examination. The Code was no new departure; there was no change of principle in it whatever. Whatever might be the defects of the Code, better work had been done under it, better attendance secured, and better grants earned than under any previous Code. The system of payment by results superseded capitation grants, which had proved to be an absolute failure. Payment by results had given a powerful stimulus to education; it had secured an honest equivalent for the vast expenditure of the State; it gave to all schools in proportion to their efficiency. It was quite true the system was not in operation on the Continent; but the conditions there were altogether different. There was no other country in which the State stood in the same relation that it did in this country. Abroad, as a rule, if the State made any grants in aid it made them exclusively to public authorities which worked under State supervision and central control. No evidence had been adduced to show that the raising of the fixed grants would diminish overpressure. The more you raised the fixed grants the less you would have to distribute for good educational results. The result would be to encourage managers to go on with poor staffs and badly-paid teachers. The teachers asked that individual examination should be maintained. There was no greater cause of alleged overpressure than irregularity of attendance; and the average attendance had been greatly stimulated by the new Code. He could not understand where the hardship to Voluntary schools came in. There had been a diminution in the cost per head of 23 per cent., and an increase of grant of 23¼ per cent. during the past eight years. With respect to the question of overpressure, he was in a position to bring forward such evidence as would drive the question outside the doors of the House.

On a division the motion was negatived by 117 to 53, and the House adjourned at ten minutes to two o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Tuesday.

Lord De La Warr asked whether the Government had received any confirmation of the report that the Russians were advancing along the Murghab. Lord Granville replied that the Government were making inquiries on the subject. Lord Salisbury asked what length of time was required for the transmission of a message. Lord Kimberley replied that the last telegram came in four days. Lord Granville, in moving an address to the Queen in reply to Her Majesty's message to the House announcing Her Majesty's intention to call out the Army Reserves and the Militia Reserves, announced that next week a statement of the policy of the Government would be made to their lordships. Lord Salisbury, in seconding the motion, which was agreed to, observed that, while there was no desire on his side of the House to press the Government unduly respecting matters of a delicate and difficult character, there was very great anxiety in the public mind as to the policy of the Government, and, therefore, an early statement on the subject was very desirable.

The Municipal Voters (Relief) Bill and the Army (Annual) Bill passed through Committee.

A conversation on the subject of telegraphic communications in time of war was raised on a question put by Lord Sidmouth. He inquired whether our sole method of telegraphic communication with Hongkong and some other British settlements in the East was by wires passing through a territory in the possession of a foreign Power, and whether it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to adopt immediate measures to insure the safety of intercourse by telegraph with those parts. Lord Derby, in reply, said there were two alternative lines of telegraph to Hongkong, and though each of them passed through the territory of a foreign Power, the two did not pass through the territory of the same foreign Power. A scheme for an independent line *vid* Singapore was under consideration, but the Admiralty thought that its advantages would not justify the expense which its construction and maintenance would involve. Lord Carnarvon suggested that it would be a great mistake to decide against an independent line of telegraph to such places as Hongkong on merely commercial principles; and he expressed a hope that, in the face of warnings, the Government had not neglected to take measures for preserving our submarine communications and for having on hand a good supply of telegraph cable in the event of war. Lord Northbrook would have thought that suggestions in these matters had better have been made privately to the Government, but he assured their lordships that the Government had not been negligent, and he repudiated the idea that they would allow commercial considerations to out-weigh those of public policy. Lord Salisbury had understood Lord Derby to give prominence to commercial considerations, though Lord Northbrook had put them in the background. He threw out, for the attention of the Government, the question whether the conveyance of news by telegraph for a belligerent would be a breach of neutrality, observing that he was not himself aware whether there had been any decision on that point.

Their lordships rose at ten minutes past five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Tuesday.

Mr. Gladstone, answering a question from Sir S. Northcote, said he had no information of importance to lay before the House in regard to the Afghan frontier. Nothing further had reached the Government in the course of the day relating to past events, but a telegram had been received from St. Petersburg, upon which communications were proceeding. No confirmation had been received from Sir P. Lumsden of the rumours of a Russian advance which he had mentioned incidentally, but renewed assurances had been received that no such advance would occur according to the intentions of the Russian Government. In answer to Mr. Macfarlane, Mr. Gladstone said that the statement of General Komaroff's chief of the Staff, to the effect that the agreement of March 17 had not been notified to him, had been referred to Sir P. Lumsden, but no reply had been received from him. Lord E. Fitzmaurice stated, in reply to Mr. Chaplin, that, judging from the time in which the messages had come, the telegraph wire must have been repaired; and Mr. Cross, in reply to Mr. Onslow, said the railway would be carried on to Shebo and Quetta, but no determination had been arrived at as to continuing it to Candahar. In reply to Mr. Parnell, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman said he had received a short account of the affair at Mallow, which corresponded closely with that given in the newspapers, to the effect that, by the desire of the railway company, the platform had been cleared of certain persons who had taken possession, but that no more force had been used than was necessary to put out those who would not leave when desired. Mr. Bulwer created much laughter by asking whether it was true that one of Mr. Parnell's colleagues had received a well-merited rap over the knuckles.

The House then went into Committee on the Seats Bill, and was occupied until a late hour with the further consideration of Schedule 7 (Divisions of Counties). Numerous amendments relating to the nomenclature of county divisions were discussed, and the alternative plan of naming divisions, accepted on Monday, was adopted in many instances. Before completing the Schedule the Committee adjourned, and after some further business had been disposed of the House adjourned at ten minutes to two o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Wednesday.

The consideration of the seventh schedule of the Redistribution of Seats Bill was resumed, and occupied the whole of the day. The English counties have been taken in alphabetical order, and when progress was reported on Tuesday night the Committee had reached Shropshire. To-day they were considering the last county, Yorkshire, when the sitting closed, and the principal alterations made were to change the name of one of the divisions of Warwickshire from Coleshill to Tamworth, and one of the divisions of Yorkshire from Northallerton to Richmond.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Thursday.

The reports of amendments were received in respect of the Tramways (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill, the Elections (Hours of Poll) Bill, and the Educational Endowments (Ireland) Bill. The Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Labourers Act) (No. 1) Bill, the Municipal Voters (Relief) Bill, and the Army (Annual) Bill were read a third time and passed. Lord Derby presented and moved the first reading of a Bill to constitute a Federal Council of Australasia, and said he would make a statement as to the objects of the measure when moving the second reading. The Bill was read a first time.

Lord Salisbury, in asking the Government whether they could give the House any information as to the progress of the communications between them and the Government of Russia, observed that any information which could be given their Lordships on the subject would be gratefully received. Lord Granville replied that he had not yet received any answer to the inquiries addressed to Sir Peter Lumsden. Sir E. Thornton informed him that it was not likely the Russian Government would receive for a few days answers to the questions they had put to their General. Naturally, in these critical times, he had frequent communications with the Russian Ambassador, but no official communications had passed between them except as to matters of fact. Lord Stanhope asked when it was likely that Sir Peter's Lumsden's reply would arrive. Lord Granville could not say. He had telegraphed, and was sure that Sir P. Lumsden would reply as soon as he could. Lord Ellenborough inquired whether the Government knew that it only required one day from Penjdeh to Merv, and that from Merv there was a telegraph direct to St. Petersburg. Lord Granville was informed that the last telegram was dated the 6th or the 7th inst. Lord Jersey presumed that the rumour in some of the papers that her Majesty's Government had agreed to give up Penjdeh to Russia was incorrect. Lord Granville declined to make statements as to the unauthorised and nearly always inaccurate accounts of the proceedings of the Government on these difficult questions.

Their Lordships rose at twenty-five minutes to five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday.

Mr. Gladstone, replying to questions from Sir S. Northcote, Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, and others, said the Government had no further information from Sir P. Lumsden, adding that there was still great doubt as to the time which it took to communicate not only with him but between St. Petersburg and General Komaroff. It was by no means clear how far telegraph was established, and it was known that the severity of the weather had caused an interruption; and in answer to a subsequent question he said Sir E. Thornton was convinced in his own mind that the news of the affair at Pul-i-Khisti did not arrive in St. Petersburg until the 7th of April. As a result of this uncertainty there must be some further delay before we received Sir P. Lumsden's reply to the important message which had been sent to him. As to the reported occupation of Penjdeh, he said a telegram had been received from Sir E. Thornton that an administration had been established at Penjdeh, but in regard to the report of a cession of the place to Russia he stated that in the friendly conversations which had been held between Lord Granville and the Russian Ambassador, and one or two other persons competent to assist, no assurance had been given or asked by either Government as to any particular point on the frontier. Lord Granville, he said, was still carrying on communications with the Russian Ambassador of a friendly but not official character. Mr. Bourke asked whether at these conversations it had been proposed that Penjdeh should be ceded to Russia, but Mr. Gladstone replied that though he had not been present at these conversations he had no reason to believe that any such suggestion had been made. In answer to Mr. Rolls, Mr. Chamberlain said he was not aware whether the railway companies meant to proceed with their Rates Bill, but if they did it would be his duty to oppose them.

Mr. Gladstone, in moving the House into Committee on the Egyptian Loan Bill, referred to the amendment of which Sir R. Cross had given notice, appealed to the Opposition whether they were aware of the double-edged tools they were playing with, and asked them whether they had considered the consequences of stopping the Bill. Dilating on these, he showed that they would include the immediate bankruptcy of Egypt, giving the right to the Ottoman Porte to interfere in that country, and the confirmation of the judgment pronounced in the suit of the Caisse, with the most inconvenient international results. There was no connection, he maintained, between the loan and the Suez Canal, and he regarded the amendment in the nature of "a tack" which was not even calculated to effect the object which it professed to have in view. If the Bill were stopped that would not prevent the Government concluding a convention behind the back of Parliament. But they were willing to give every reasonable assurance that any agreement should be based on the conditions already laid down, and that the interests and convictions of the country would be consulted. The Commission had already met, and the Government had every reason to be satisfied with its progress, and, under the circumstances, holding that the difference was a very narrow one, he impressed on the House the importance at this moment of presenting a united front to Europe. Sir R. Cross moved a resolution asking the House to decline to proceed with the discussion of the details of the Bill until it shall have before it the convention which is to be concluded with regard to the Suez Canal. He contended that the declaration relating to the Canal could not be separated from the Loan Convention, and maintained that now that Egypt had overcome her financial difficulties the position had changed since the convention was agreed to last month. The Canal question, he said, was of the greatest importance, and, in pressing his motion to a division, his object was to delay the Bill so as to ensure that the terms of the convention were satisfactory, or that an assurance would be given that the House would be afforded an opportunity of considering them. England was in every way more interested in the Canal than any other nation, and, while recognising the difficulties surrounding the question, he argued that if the Canal was to be treated as outside the area of international law it was extremely desirable that the basis upon which the Conference was to settle the rules for its management should be definitely stated and that our position should be adequately protected. He then criticised at some length the proposals which it was understood were to be laid before the Conference, and strongly deprecated any settlement being carried out without the knowledge of Parliament. Mr. Gladstone intimated that the House would practically be consulted. Lord R. Churchill deprecated the amendment on the ground that it would commit the House prematurely in regard to the convention, and that it was unnecessary, because no Government, he contended, could conclude an agreement which would have a spark of vitality without the assent of the House of Commons. Mr. Norwood gave expression to the apprehension with which he regarded the possible outcome of the negotiations, and his want of confidence in our diplomacy to protect the commercial interests of the country. The conditions laid down by Lord Granville, he showed, would hamper us very seriously, and he pressed for some more satisfactory assurance that Parliament would not be committed to the convention against its will. In answer to this appeal Mr. Gladstone repeated that the Government would undertake not to conclude the convention without giving the House full information, and without doing their best to consult the views and interests of the commercial community. Mr. Staveley Hill thought that previous experience showed this assurance to be unsatisfactory, and canvassed at length and in an unfriendly tone the whole arrangement for the relief of Egyptian finance. The Lord Mayor cordially approved the amendment, while Mr. D. Davies urged that for the sake of the country it should not be pressed to a division. Mr. Warton, however, took a different view, and energetically denounced the cruel and un-English policy of the Government. Mr. Northcote put a series of questions to the Government as to the meaning of the various proposals in Lord Granville's despatch, and asked for information as to what, in circumstances which he enumerated, would be the effect of these proposals. Dr. Farquharson agreed that the amendment was only a veiled attack upon the Loan Bill; Mr. Elton was opposed to belligerent navigation of the Canal; and Mr. MacIver, speaking with, as he said, an intimate personal knowledge of the Canal, condemned the policy of the Government in relation to it. Mr. Forster pointed out the inconvenience of discussing questions relating to the Canal on the motion to go into Committee on the Loan Bill, and appealed to the Government to give an assurance that before committing the country to any joint agreement in relation to the Canal they would submit it to the House. Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett made a vigorous onslaught upon the general policy of the Government in Egypt, and protested against the Guaranteed Loan, which, he contended, would entail untold evils on the Egyptian people. Mr. Bourke, dealing with the subject of the Canal, desired to know what would be the relative position of the proposed international authority and the Canal company, and joined in insisting that the terms of the proposed arrangement should be submitted to the House. Mr. Chamberlain undertook that before this international act was adopted the draft and the protocols should be laid before the House, so that an opportunity would be afforded of pronouncing an opinion. Sir S. Northcote upon this said the object of the amendment was gained, and Sir R. Cross having accordingly withdrawn it, the Bill passed through Committee.

The House then went into Committee on the Seats Bill, and further considered the 7th schedule (Divisions of Counties). The Committee completed the consideration of the English and Scotch counties, and, having settled the names of the divisions of county Antrim, adjourned.

After some further business had been disposed of, the House was counted out at 1.45.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

The Marquis of Salisbury will open the new club-house of the Hackney Conservative Club on Tuesday, May 5. He will be supported by Mr. W. A. Tyssen-Amherst, M.P., Mr. A. M'Alister, and other gentlemen.

A Parnellite member, Mr. Kenny, has (a Dublin correspondent says) been guilty of a costly piece of Parliamentary neglect. He was appointed on a Committee which met this week to proceed with the Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway Bill. A large number of witnesses had been brought up to London by special arrangement from Southampton, but Mr. Kenny did not attend. After waiting for an hour the Committee adjourned, at an expense, it is said, of £200, and to the promoters' vexation and annoyance. The circumstance has been reported to the Committee of Selection.

It has been decided to nominate Lord Randolph Churchill, M.P., and Mr. Lionel L. Cohen as the Conservative candidates at the ensuing election for the Southern and Northern Divisions of Paddington respectively. In reply to the Chairman of the Conservative Association (Mr. T. G. Fardell) who conveyed to his lordship the unanimous resolution of the large meeting of electors on the 5th March last, asking Lord Randolph Churchill to allow his name to be put forward, his lordship stated that he was pledged to contest Birmingham, and that it would not be in his power to contest personally any other constituency; but that if the Conservative party in Paddington were unanimously of opinion that it was in the interests of the party that he should be nominated for the South Division, he would esteem such nomination a very high honour.

Lady Brassey, in opening a Junior Liberal Conversazione at Hastings on Tuesday, said it was rather against her principle to interest herself in politics, except at election times, when it was the duty of all to fight for their colours; but she felt convinced that in Hastings there was a balance in favour of the Liberals. If they sank their little differences she was sure they would be successful.

The Select Committee of the House of Lords appointed to inquire into the merits of the Manchester Ship Canal Bill gave their decision on Wednesday on the engineering portion of the scheme so far as the estuary of the Mersey is concerned. The chairman stated that the Committee were satisfied with the engineering portion of the scheme, and had decided to allow the Bill to proceed. The Committee will now commence an inquiry into the commercial aspect of the scheme.

The receipts on account of Revenue from the 1st of April, 1884, when there was a balance of £4,993,207, to April 11, 1885, were £3,440,925, against £3,715,741 in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, which began with a balance of £5,632,569. The net expenditure was £5,235,356, against £4,938,934 to the same date in the previous year. Treasury balances on April 11 amounted to £3,243,406, and at the same date in 1884 to £4,155,387.

At a Conservative demonstration held at Peterborough on Wednesday evening the speakers included Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, M.P., and Mr. R. Dawson, Conservative candidate for the borough. The former, in a lengthy address, which was enthusiastically received, referred to the policy of the Government in relation to Ireland, South Africa, Egypt, and Afghanistan in terms of severe condemnation. He knew no record more melancholy—certainly none more disgraceful—than the history of our relations with Egypt during the past three years. The present Government inherited from their predecessors a position in Egypt which Lord Beaconsfield—(loud cheers)—once well described as a position of predominance. It was necessary, and he demanded that next to the rights of the Sovereign and people of that country British prestige should be first; but how long would it be so? The result of recent events had been that the Government had flung away all that we fought for, and had hustled through the House of Commons an agreement that gave to our rivals in Europe the same influence as we possessed ourselves. (Shame.) Turning to the question of the hour, the position of affairs on the Afghan frontier, he declared it to be nothing less than the existence of our Indian Empire which was at stake—an empire the greatest, the most wonderful, and the most precious dominion of the Crown, the fate of which now rested upon the action and the decision of Her Majesty's Ministers; but with Afghanistan backed up by British soldiers and British statesmanship of the old type—(loud cheers)—we should have respect in Asia and a safe Empire. There was a bright spot for us in the presence at Calcutta of Lord Dufferin in the place of the miserable anarchist, Lord Ripon, who was going to be made a duke, people said, for his services in India. If that were true, what title under Heaven or on the face of the earth could be sufficient to reward Mr. Gladstone for his services to the cause of Imperial disintegration? Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett concluded by saying that in his humble opinion the Government should demand of Russia the recall of General Komaroff, and the immediate retirement of the Russian forces to the positions which they held before the appointment of the Boundary Commission had been agreed upon, or if the military authorities thought we were unable to back up the demand with sufficient forces, we should content ourselves with strengthening our Indian army, and, if the Ameer would allow it, filling Herat with British troops. We should get into Candahar, and relay the railway thereto with all possible speed, and above all, no matter how the Radicals might dislike it, we should make an alliance with the Ottoman Empire, so that we might have the assistance the Turks, who were brave soldiers, would be glad to give us. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Evan Pateshall, of Allensmore Court, Herefordshire, formerly M.P. for Hereford, died towards the end of last week in the 69th year of his age. He was the youngest son of the late Mr. David Thomas, of Wellfield, Radnorshire (who served as High Sheriff for that county in 1829), by his marriage with Catherine, daughter of Mr. William Jones, of Henllys, Carmarthenshire. He was born in 1817, and was educated at Shrewsbury School and afterwards at King's College, London. He was a magistrate for Radnordshire and for Brecknockshire, and also a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant for Herefordshire. He was elected M.P. for Hereford in the Conservative interest in 1874, and held his seat until 1878, when he resigned and retired into private life. Mr. Pateshall exchanged his patronymic of Thomas for that which he bore in 1855, having married, in 1842, Anne Elizabeth, only child and heiress of the late Mr. William Pateshall, of Hereford.

IN KHARTOUM DURING THE SIEGE.

A correspondent, writing to the *Daily News* from Korti, gives an account of an interview with an Egyptian soldier who served in the army of Hicks Pasha, and who was in Khartoum during the siege. In his narrative about the fighting after the city was besieged, the soldier said:—

"Now I must tell you of a wicked act of treachery. Landing from the steamers, we at once attack the enemy. They run, routed, on account of our furious fire; but now what I have to relate fills my heart with grief. The traitor Abraham takes off his tarbash, puts it in his breast, from which he takes a dervish's cap, putting it on his head. Next to this what does he do? He gallops up to the bugler and tells him to sound the 'kusrah' ('retreat;' this in military Turkish signifies defeat). The brave boy refused, and said, 'Pasha, we are not defeated; and I will not sound as you order.' Then he cleaves the brave boy's head with his scimitar and smites others who would not turn. Now, when our enemies see these things come to pass, they, who had been in fear and trembling, gain heart, return, and attack us again. We become disorganised—why not? We fly back to the outworks and huts we had left, close to the cemetery. But we did not let the traitorous Pasha to escape. We circle round his horse and compel him to retire with us. Much does he struggle, beg, and protest. He had endeavoured to escape; but escape for him was not. I cannot tell you what the other Pasha did; I did not observe; but this man—maledictions on his soul!—slew several of our soldiers. But we were too quick for him; we brought him back, bound hand and foot."

All this, we are told, Gordon witnessed from the top of his house. The traitorous Pashas were tried by court-martial and sentenced to death.

"Seven days afterwards they were executed. They were hewn in pieces by a halbert. According to Turkish military law, a military traitor is always sentenced to be cut to pieces. The two were bound up against the wall by chains and rings. Two soldiers armed with sharp hatchets approached them from out of the sides of a square we had formed. The prisoners' crime was read out, and their sentence. A hundred soldiers were present, some senior officers, but not Gordon Pasha. The senior Bey cried out, 'Executioners, perform sentence on the traitors!' Immediately these advanced close, and lopped off first their arms above the elbows, then the legs above the knees; then cut their bodies in twain; then decapitated them. They died not till they were cut asunder; then their heads fell on their breasts, and they expired with a hideous yell. Surely their fate was deserved! I cannot say whether Gordon Pasha knew of this manner of execution."

There were days and nights of watching, the soldier continued; they were "like dogs guarding sheepfolds from the wolf or hyæna;" but they were not downhearted.

"Gordon kept saying to us, 'Patience; the English are coming—are coming. God watches over you.' He was a good man. 'My faith in God never fails,' he said; 'neither let yours.' In the morning the band would play to him early, as he used to sit in the kiosque you will remember across the road at the wall, over the Nile. He took his coffee there. He then walked up and down on the top of his house. After this he commenced the business of the day in the rooms of the first story of the palace. Many officials now visited him. Then came the chief butchers and bakers. After this, at midday, Gordon Pasha took his lunch. Business was renewed in the afternoon. At evening-time he would ride along the entrenchments from Blue to White Nile. The enemy were always firing in a desultory way. By accident people used to be hit day after day."

As time wore on and provisions became short by reason of the strictness of the siege, Gordon sent away all the old men and women who were unable to work out of Khartoum. They were afraid to go at first, but Gordon gave them an introduction to Mahommed Achmet, writing as follows:—"Be kind to these; treat them well, I charge you. Behold, I have kept and fed all these for four months; try how you will like doing so for one month." The correspondent says that this was told him on two different occasions by more than three Bishareen Arabs who had come from Omdurman. He has since had confirmation of this from good authorities who were in Khartoum, and who told him of it unasked. One day two messengers came "from afar across the desert."

"Gordon ordered the sentinels to let them pass in peace. They waved a white flag, and cied, 'Salamu ah la cum.' They said they were Ambassadors from Wad-el-Jumma, Ameer of Mahommed Achmet. We replied in words signifying, 'Peace and mercy of God.' Gordon had them escorted to the palace, and made them partake of coffee and sit down on a carpet prepared for them, as is the custom. They produced two dervishes' coats and one cap, a rosary, and sandals. 'These,' said they, 'are sent by Wad-el-Jumma, Ameer of our Lord the long-expected one.' They had a letter, beginning 'Hod dale wah dolan.' This was the sense of it; 'Take these and Islam, and go home to your country—you and the sons of Errect (Egypt), and leave Soudan (country of the blacks) to its relations (literal); and on you be the safety of God and the Prophet; and we will lower you (let you down) with safety (*i.e.*, in good faith).' Gordon took these things and gave them a koflan (robe), pair of boots, tarbush (red fez with blue tassel), and waistvest, typical of Egyptian costume, saying, 'Give these to Wad-el-Jumma. Tell him, Islam enter the Government, as you are a coward (literally man frightened).' These men were dressed as dervishes. Gordon gave them twenty-five dollars backsheesh. As they left they said, 'Remember we have plenty of soldiers and Arabs.'

"I would now tell you of the battle of El-Effoon, two days' march towards Sennaar. I went up with the soldiers to battle with 500 Bashi-Bazouks. On the first day we found Arabs in a building, and drove them out. On the second day we were marching up to a village called Omdoban (Mother of Flies). We attacked the rebels under a dervish, and firing killed many. But we were charged by cavalry and foot. Many of us were then slain. Abou Gergeo and Wed Nejum (Son of the Stars) encamped on the sand south of Khartoum. Three months after Gordon arrived these men sat down before the place. Two sorties were made, and many of them killed. During this time we got forage for our horses from Tuti. Our guns could play on the island. From there, too, melons and cucumbers were brought. And now I would tell you about the steamers. One plied between the rocks—En Mogrin and Khartoum—with one gun. The Arabs intended putting wires across the river at Gebel Ain; but the force of the water broke these. Gordon did not cut them. Behind the trenches were tents, one for twenty-four men; one man kept guard at the trench for the twenty-four; thus we lived, ate, drank, slept, prayed, day and night."

THE CAPTURE OF LANG-SON.

A correspondent of the *Standard* has supplied some details of the fighting which resulted in the capture of Lang-son by the French troops. The graphic account enables us to form an estimate of the progress which the Chinese have made in the use of arms since they were last engaged in war with a civilised nation. The letter is written from Lang-son on February 14, and from it we give the following extract. After describing the preparations for the engagement, the correspondent says:—

"The Chinese were believed to be fifty thousand strong; the French Column numbered hardly six thousand, notwithstanding the reinforcements and the thinning down of delta garrisons. On the 3rd of February the advance guard camped on the summit of a ridge which barred the entrance to the Dong-Song valley.

"There was no delay made in the attack. The Chinese had doubtless expected that the French Column would move along the road in the valley. Naturally, however, they did no such thing. Colonel Giovanelli, with the first brigade, moved along the right wing, while General de Négrier took the line of crests to the left. And all this time the Chinamen kept up a raking fire, fortunately very badly directed, but still steadily thinning the French ranks. They did not wait to defend their forts, however. When the final rush began, they jumped over their mud works and ran, but carried rifles and standards with them. A few minutes' rest, and then an advance was made on the next forts in the same way, but this time with the material assistance of the mountain guns—'pieces of eighty,' carried in sections on the backs of mules, who clambered up the slopes, and rendered immense service. Everywhere the Chinese held tenaciously against rifle fire, but fled in disorder before the shell, whether time or percussion. Before night eight forts were taken, but an unfortunate incident happened on the left wing. The 'cease fire' was sounded, but a company of the Foreign Legion either did not hear, or the captain thought he could capture a fort on which he was then advancing. At any rate, he went on unsupported by the artillery. Perhaps on this account the the Chinese proved unexpectedly stubborn. To a terrible rifle fire they added huge stones hurled on the shelterless Legion. The captain was killed, the lieutenant, an Italian prince, was mortally wounded, the sub-lieutenant was wounded also, not a single non-commissioned officer escaped without a wound, and half the men were on the hill-side before succour came to carry them off. The Chinese remained in possession of the fort, but evacuated it during the night.

"Next day the fighting was much lighter, for the artillery could fire straight into a majority of the forts. One, however, furnished all round with formidable casemates, proved rather 'expensive,' and when at last it was taken, there remained some fifty or sixty Chinamen in the covered trenches. They would not come out, and an attempt to charge in on them resulted in the loss of seven men. To settle the matter, charges of dynamite were put on the top and the threescore men were choked or shattered to death. 'No quarter' was the order of the day. Wounded Chinamen fired on passers-by out of the scrub, and they and all prisoners were shot where they were found. The majority of them were Hunan braves, the reputed best fighters in China, and men of magnificent physique. That night the French occupied the camp of Ho-Hao, situated in a kind of bowl, with fort-crowned hills all round. The 6th saw the capture of Dong-Song and the end of the first stage of the march.

"On the 10th February we started for Lang-son, twenty miles off. We crossed the ridge, and began the descent towards the China side. Next day it was the same thing up till about two o'clock, when the Staff, at the head of the Column, looking down on the village of Pho-Van-Vy, was fired on. Immediately afterwards a long string of Chinamen were seen in the hills over to the right, and there was a great show of standards on the crest of some low hills, straight in front, a couple of miles beyond Van-Vy. Artillery fire was opened on them, and skirmishers were sent forward, but there was nothing very definite to fire at except the flags and the line of the Chinese fire. There was no fort. It was a simple broken line of hills they were defending. At length, about four o'clock or later the artillery was sent forward to within fifteen hundred yards, and two companies—one of the Legion, commanded by an Irishman, Captain Cotter; and the other of the Native Auxiliaries, under Commander Thounot—were deputed to dislodge the enemy. But the enemy stuck hard. The ground was in a series of waves, and Captain Cotter only stormed one ridge to find that the Chinamen were already lining the next, and blazing away in one long line. Every here and there could be seen leaders standing quite exposed on the crest, directing the fire. Time-shells, admirably dropped over their heads, had comparatively little effect, and at six o'clock the 'Cease fire' was sounded with no more than six hundred yards between the combatants. Curiously enough, the moment the French stopped firing the Chinamen stopped also, and quite a number of them stood up and had a good look round them as long as the light lasted. The Tongkinese Company, who were under fire for the first time, showed considerable coolness and courage, though bullets were dropping pretty thick, and two men were badly wounded while I was with them. In this affair the French lost twenty-four men, four of whom were artillerymen.

"The next day was looked forward to with some anxiety. The enemy had retired no further than half a mile from their positions of the previous night. Their outposts were soon driven back, and then there was a hard struggle. On every hill as far as the eye could see through the mist, up into the clouds, there were Chinamen and standards. A heavy shower of shell and repeated volleys of companies enabled the French to get a footing in the plain and bring up a battery to a conveniently situated low hill. Then began a fierce combat, which lasted for four hours, during which time there was but a slight change in the position of the troops on either side. The French stormed away with two batteries of mountain guns, with volleys of companies and independent firing. The Chinamen sent an occasional *biscaien* from their jingals, but trusted mainly to their small arms. The Turcos, who were in the centre, down in the valley, suffered most. At one time they were receiving fire from front, right, and left. Still it was all their officers could do to keep them from rushing wildly on the enemy immediately in front. In four hours they lost 153 men and six officers, besides which, several others, including Commandant Cosmoy, the pet of the regiment, were wounded, but did not leave the field. The Infanterie de la Marine and the Tongkinese also suffered, but not so severely, and the artillery, as on the previous day, did not come off scot free, the commandant of one battery being shot through the forehead in the middle of his guns, while not a few of the gunners were killed and many more wounded. At last the plain up to the glen was gained, and then 'Cease fire' was sounded to enable the artillery to come forward. Again, curiously enough, the Chinamen also ceased firing and came forward on to the crests of the hills to see what was going on. When firing was recommenced on the French side the Chinese also began again, but their two villages were rendered untenable. One or two rude forts and a couple of formidable ones were searched out by the shell, and then taken by assault by the infantry. The Chinese main body was driven back into the hills to the east towards the Kwang-Si frontier, and then Colonel Giovanelli, with the first brigade, marched straight, and almost uninterruptedly, along the road to Lang-son. Darkness and slippery roads—the Chinese by the way had made an excellent road, such a road as hardly exists in all China, from Dong-Song to Lang-son—alone prevented the Colonel from reaching Lang-son that night. As it was, he camped in the midst of the last low hills before the wide Lang-son plain is reached. A great red glare in the sky seemed to announce that the town had been burnt, but when yesterday the two Generals rode into the vast grassy citadel it was found that comparatively few houses had been destroyed. There were still a matter of five hundred Chinamen or so in Ki-Lua, the Chinese town on the other side of the Song Ki-cung river, and they came out in battle array, but a couple of shells from the artillery sufficed to send them to the rightabout."

THE TOMBS ON THE VIA SALARIA.

The *Times* correspondent at Rome thus continues his interesting account of the recent discoveries, to which he called attention in the article quoted by us last week:—

Let me take you in imagination to that one of the half run-up row of houses, a few yards within the modern Porta Salaria, where the tomb of the Liciniani Crassi was found. We pass into one of the rooms on the ground floor, where the floor is still bare earth. In the middle of it is a hole, about 8ft. by 4ft., from which the top of a ladder projects. A man carrying an oil lamp, with one flaming wick at the side, precedes us. We follow him down the almost perpendicular ladder to a depth of eight metres, pass then into a wider space, clamber through a rectangular window-like opening in an ancient wall forming one side of it, continue down a short passage like a bit of the catacombs, and see there, projecting from the solid *débris* which has crushed down into and filled what is in fact the *hypogeum* of a tomb, the end of a large white marble sarcophagus, on which is represented, sculptured in full alto-relief, part of what would seem to be the Triumph of Bacchus—men leading an elephant and two panthers, together with other figures, all replete with life and animation; in fact, a splendid work of art. The lid is firmly fixed in its place. The sarcophagus is standing where it has remained undisturbed since the day it was closed, except by the mass of material that has fallen upon and buried it. I hope to be present when it is opened; but seen where it is now, in that dark hole, by the light of one oil wick only, the effect is more impressive than I can describe.

This is the tenth sarcophagus discovered at this place since the *cippi* of the Liciniani Crassi, of which I sent you a description in my last letter, were found. The discovery of those monuments in a place where it was evident that no excavations had ever been attempted, the depth at which the chamber they stood in was situated, and other indications, led Signor Maraini to conjecture that further discoveries might be made. A systematic exploration was therefore commenced by opening a passage from the level of the chamber where the *cippi* were found, some 4ft. wide and high enough for a man to stand erect in, and a few hours' labour revealed an unopened sarcophagus *in situ* and embedded in earth. The vault of the chamber where it stood had been crushed in, and the ruin in that respect was so complete that this burial-place had itself been completely buried. Whether it was connected with the tomb of the Liciniani Crassi and formed part of it there have thus far been no means of ascertaining, but in it there were found eight sarcophagi, all in their places, six of them richly sculptured, and two, one of which is of great size, perfectly plain. This is, in fact, a rectangular mass of marble hollowed out and perfectly worked and squared within, to hold two bodies, with cleanly-cut rectangular grooves for the insertion of a division between them. It measures outside no less than 8ft. in length by 4ft. in width, and nearly 3ft. in depth, but neither on this nor on any of the others is there the slightest trace of an inscription.

From this chamber a third was entered—that in which the sarcophagus I mentioned at the beginning of this letter has just been found, together with another two days ago. All these sarcophagi were intact; that is to say, they had never been desecrated, although the covers of several had been fractured by the fall of the superincumbent material upon them, and one had the cover completely crushed in. On their being opened, the remains of the dead were found within them, the skulls and larger bones being in a very good state of preservation. One of the sarcophagi contained a quantity of material used for embalming and preserving the body. It was in large lumps, which, when broken in two, presented a dark yellow oleaginous appearance, and gave forth a grateful balsamic perfume. Nothing else was found inside them excepting a beautiful piece of gold cord which had formed part of the dress of the inmate. Nor has the slightest fragment of an inscription or other indication been as yet discovered anywhere in these tombs, showing what families they belonged to, or who the occupants of these elaborately sculptured sarcophagi were, or offering the slightest clue regarding them. But this absence of any feature of historical interest is more than compensated for by the great beauty and value of the sarcophagi as works of art.

Of the eight found in the second chamber—four of which contained the bodies of adults and four those of children and young persons—the most interesting is one measuring 7ft. long by 1ft. 9in. in height, without calculating the cover, on which a Bacchanalian scene, composed of fifteen figures, is sculptured along the sides and front. As a composition it is but a variation of the manner in which this subject was generally treated. It commences at the right end with two Bacchantes, one fingering a tambourine, the other sounding the cymbals, and a faun playing the Pandean pipes. Then follow along the front Bacchantes and fauns dancing; the usual accessories on the ground between them; further on, Silenus, supported by an attendant; and the scene finishes along the left end. But what is especially remarkable about this work is the masterly manner in which the figures, admirably modelled and replete with life and action, are carved, or rather were in process of being carved, for the work, though nearly completed, was left unfinished. No points or other fixed measurements have been used. The sculptor, with a sure, masterly hand, had gone direct at his work with a full knowledge of what he intended to do and a feeling of certainty of being able to produce it. Every cut of the chisel is clear, distinct, and continuous, and each has been made with wonderful precision. The manner in which some parts of the drapery are prepared for what would now be done with the drill—of which, however, there is no sign anywhere—is most interesting. A cast of the work as an example of *technique* would be a valuable acquisition to any school of art.

The next in importance is a sarcophagus of about the same length, but much larger in point of height and dimension of the figures, which are highly finished and polished. The subject represented in the front in alto-relief is the rape of the Leucippides, Phœbe and Hilaira, daughters of Leucippus, carried off by Castor and Pollux. In the centre stands a female figure with arms raised in violent agitation. On her right one of the twin brothers is bearing away his bride, and on her left the other. Further on the left are two warriors fighting, with their shields opposed one close against the other. Other figures, eleven in all, complete the composition. On the angles are winged figures with cornucopiæ, and on each end is sculptured, in low relief, one of the Dioscuri springing with his bride into a quadriga, of which the horses are just starting at full gallop through a gateway represented in rapid perspective in the middle of each end, so that one of the piers hides the hindquarters of the horses as they plunge through. The perpendicular front of the cover resembles in treatment the celebrated Amazon sarcophagus in the Capitoline Museum, so much admired by Flaxman. It has at each corner a large head of an old faun, in full relief, with long curled hair, beard, and moustache, the forelock being turned direct back from the brow, with a pigeon's wing on each side of it. Along the face are, in low relief, winged figures sacrificing bulls, resembling the Mithraic sacrifice. The other two sarcophagi are, as I have mentioned, perfectly plain.

Of the four of smaller size the most interesting is a *domus æterna*, a sarcophagus with a cover like the roof of a house with the tiles divided one from the other, and antefixes along the sides. There is one very similar to it in every way, but inferior in workmanship, in the Vactican Museum. At each of the four corners is a winged Victory, from the shoulders and arms of which extend along the ends and sides garlands of fruit and flowers, which, on the sides, are sustained at equal distances by two cupids. In the three spaces above the hang of the garlands on one side there are small portrait busts of probably the father and mother of the defunct, with, in the middle space, a Gorgon's head with horror-struck expression, while in each of the corresponding spaces on the other side and at the ends there are Gorgons' heads, some with a perfectly placid expression. This sarcophagus has a curiously formed base, with elaborately carved mouldings and a carved cornice, above the sculpture on the sides and ends, supporting the spring of the roof-like cover.

The next has upon the front a continuous alto-relief representing the birth of Bacchus, with all the figures accessory to the usual rendering of that subject, including Silenus, supported by an attendant.

The third of these smaller ones has a cupid at each corner and one in the middle of the front supporting a wreath, with scenic masks grouped in the usual way in full relief, and admirably carved, occupying the spaces above the swing of the garlands. On one end is a cupid, in low relief, riding on a hippocampus, and on the other a cupid with a Mercury cap and caduceus, riding on a marine monster with a ram's head and forequarters. Along the perpendicular front of the cover, which has satyrs' heads in full relief at the angles, a wild-beast hunt is represented; a man on foot spearing a bear that has turned over on its back; a man on a horse with a leopard-skin saddle, in full gallop towards a lion which has sprung upon a horse it has thrown down on its haunches; and other similar incidents, sculptured with great spirit and animation, together with remarkable finish in the details.

The last is decorated with ornament like that of part of a frieze, in the form of two pairs of griffins, each pair facing towards a candelabrum, while along the cover are cupids riding on marine monsters.

I reserve my description of the ninth sarcophagus found in the third chamber, where the end of a tenth has just been discovered, for the reason that, while it is not only different in style, and larger in size and more elaborate in workmanship than those found in the second room, the tomb in which it has been discovered may probably have belonged to a different family, and it would be better, therefore, to treat of it together with whatever other sarcophagi may be found in the same place and be considered as belonging to the same group.

A WIDOW'S SACRIFICE.

Under the above heading Lady John Manners has written in the *Queen* an interesting account of the great work of mercy accomplished by Harriet Monsell—a work which was one of love, the fruits of which speak for themselves. We quote the following from Lady Manners' article, in which she gives some passages illustrating Harriet Monsell's work, from the interesting life written by the Rev. T. T. Carter:—

"Harriet O'Brien was married in 1839 to Charles Monsell, 'a man of singular refinement, of a saint-like character, and of a highly cultivated taste.' After the marriage, he took Holy Orders; but his health gave way, and after the happy union was severed by his death in 1851, the childless widow then resolved to devote her life entirely to the service of God. The manner in which by degrees the path of usefulness unfolded before her is described by Mr. Carter. He was then rector of Clewer, a mere hamlet, where dwelt in a group of wretched houses some miserable outcast women. His curate, Rev. C. W. Johnson, now Canon Furse, of Westminster Abbey, gave part of his time to help in the parish. Assisted by him, a poor widow, who kept a dame's school, persuaded some of these poor women to endeavour to lead good lives. The question of sending them to the Magdalene Asylum was being deliberated, when Mrs. Tennant, a Spanish lady, who had become a member of the Anglican Church, offered to receive into her own house as many of these poor women as wished to come. Her one maid-servant cordially entered into the plan. I cannot but feel that much honour is due to that maid. Within four months, eighteen poor erring women were sheltered beneath Mrs. Tennant's roof. We can hardly realise what an amount of labour and anxiety must have fallen on Mrs. Tennant, who acquired great influence over these poor women, who became attached to her. It was resolved to found a House of Mercy, to be conducted in the same spirit in which the work was commenced. A few ladies, from time to time, helped Mrs. Tennant, who died in 1860. In this emergency, Miss Cozens, a kind, elderly lady, undertook, in conjunction with a few friends, the charge of the penitents. Then the Hon. and Rev. Charles Harris, brother of Lord Malmesbury, offered to give his undivided attention to the work, and for several years he did this, with no reward except the joy of doing good. Mr. Charles Harris had married one of Harriet Monsell's sisters, and when offering his services, he spoke of his sister-in-law as anxious to join. He and his wife settled at Clewer in the spring of 1851. Harriet Monsell lived for a time with them, being of use in nursing her sister, but working much at the House of Mercy. To quote Mr. Carter's words, 'It soon became evident that the work could not grow into a permanent institution, at least not on the same principles on which it had been commenced, if it were to remain dependent upon a succession of individuals, however capable.' It was felt 'that it could be maintained and developed only by a religious community. Was this to be hoped for?'

"Mr. Carter then alludes to a small body of women desirous of living under religious rule, and devoting themselves to charitable works, who had planted themselves at Park Village, near Regent's-park. The idea of such a sisterhood being formed originated in the following manner: Lord John Manners had read with great interest Southey's account of sisterhoods. On Southey's death, when it was proposed to erect a memorial to him, it occurred to Lord John that the formation of such a sisterhood would be the most fitting one. Others, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, Mr. Beresford and Lady Mildred Beresford Hope, Lord Powis, the late Lord Lyttelton, took the same view; and, after much discussion, with the sanction of the then Bishop of London (Blomfield) it was decided to take the house mentioned. Later, Dr. Pusey gave valuable assistance. It is believed this was the first sisterhood of the Anglican Church founded since the time of Charles the First, though others rose up soon.

"Harriet Monsell's family fully approved of her entering the religious life. . . . Three ladies joined her and formed a nucleus for the community of St. John the Baptist. When Harriet Monsell undertook the charge of the work there were thirty penitents in the house. She became Superior of the community on St. Andrew's Day, 1852. The manner in which the good work developed itself under her management was marvellous. It is recorded of her that her keynote was always Prayer, and her watch-word Go Forward. . . . In 1872 it became necessary for Harriet Monsell to resign her office of Superior of the community, in consequence of the failing state of her health. I will now glance at the work she accomplished, but it must be recollected that valuable counsel and assistance are given to her in all her undertakings by a body composed of clergymen and laymen. In the life of Bishop Wilberforce there are interesting letters on Clewer. During the twenty-five years that Harriet Monsell was Superior, many works were undertaken by the community: St. John's Home at Clewer, an orphanage and industrial school, placed under her charge by its founder, Mrs. Lancaster; then the St. Andrew's Convalescent Hospital; the St. Stephen's Mission House; the High School and College, with the church and day schools for the poor. These were in the parish of Clewer. In 1860 the community established a mission at St. Barnabas, Pimlico, and a refuge formed by the Hon. and Rev. Robert Liddell was placed under the care of the sisters. Then followed the Rose-street Mission House in Soho, the St. Alban's Mission, and the Mission of All Hallows. The sisters undertook to work the House of Charity in Greek-street, Soho, in 1861, and church work rooms were established in 1862.

"The Oxford Penitentary, Manor House, Holywell, was undertaken by the community in 1860, and in 1863 the Hon. and Rev. C. L. Courtenay and the sisters began their work of mercy at Bovey Tracey, Devon, which has now developed into the Devon House of Mercy, almost equalling the Clewer House in its capacity for receiving those anxious to lead good, useful lives. St. Andrew's Cottage, a home of rest for poor ladies, was then built, and was the parent society of St. Andrew's cottagers, then St. Raphael's Convalescent Home, Torquay. The community then undertook the charge of St. Lucy's Hospital for Children, and an industrial school, situated just out of Gloucester.

"Here let us pause, and consider what an immense amount of misery must have been alleviated by the work undertaken by the community. As it was of Harriet Monsell's work I wished to speak, I will not dwell on her life after her retirement, which took place at this stage of the progress of the sisterhood, but will only say that she passed some peaceful years in a house called The Hermitage at Folkestone, whence she watched with keenest interest and deep thankfulness the extension of the sisters' labour of love, and where her life on earth peacefully ended on Easter Day, 1883.

"After her retirement, Harriet Monsell had the happiness of hearing that the community had founded a house in the city of New York, which has, in its turn, become a centre of good. Other works have since been undertaken, a detailed account of which is given in the *Kalendar of the English Church*, 1883, page 199 to 203.

"'One great feature,' a friend writes, 'in Mother Harriet's life was her deep sympathy with any work for God, irrespective of its being carried out according to her own views; and she showed this in no way more beautifully than in her constant love and desire to help other communities. . . . Strange that our variations of thought should ever cause difficulties to those who love Jesus and work for Him.'

"The schools of thought of earnest workers may differ widely, but, to conclude in the words of the Bishop of Peterborough, 'When all human schools of thought have come to an end, we trust there will be a place found for us all in the Common Home of our Common Father if we have all here had our places in the one school of Christ.'"

THE WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Mr. Broadhurst, M.P., writes to the papers that Dr. Barry, the newly-appointed Bishop of Sydney, and Metropolitan of Australia, is reported to have ordered his clergy to refuse all persons who have contracted marriage with a deceased wife's sister the privileges of communion with the Church. Against this salutary example, however, the hon. gentleman sets the following letter which he has received from Bishop Suter, of Nelson:—"Sir,—My apology for addressing you as a stranger is that I see you have charge of the often-repeated effort in the House of Commons to carry through the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill. As I have thought it right to advocate the principles of that Bill in my Synod, and have received very considerable support amongst the clergy and still more amongst the laity for my efforts, I thought you might be glad to know that the measure will not be regarded by many ecclesiastical persons in the colonies as it is by the very large majority of such persons in England. If needs be, you can say that there are certainly four Bishops—that is, myself and three others—in Australia, including Auckland, N.Z., who do not disapprove of marriage with a deceased wife's sister. This I know from conversation and communication held with them myself. As to the laity, they are almost to a man in favour of them, so much so that in the General Synod in Napier in 1883, a proposition negativing the permission of them was set aside by a motion to proceed to the next order of the day. In the discussions at home it seems to have been lost sight of by the opponents of the measure that it has already received the Royal Assent in nearly all, if not all, the colonies, and that such marriages are, therefore, legal in the colonies, and are resorted to by many loyal Churchmen, who think in accordance with the rubric that they are allowed by the Word of God and the laws of the realm. I hold that this is a matter which should be left to men's consciences. All the cases that have come under my knowledge have been cases in which the proceeding was desirable from every point of view, and the results have been satisfactory. I am persuaded that many clergymen in the colonies, and beyond all doubt the laity, members of the Church of England, are desirous of having the matter left as it is in the colonies. No clergyman is obliged to marry such persons, but, on the other hand, were the epithets 'incestuous,' 'unholy,' and suchlike words to be applied as they are in England, a colonial jury would probably—and I for my part think rightly—find them to be libellous. You are at liberty to make any use you may think fit of my letter. I am glad to see there are still such men as Deans Vaughan and Perowne, and, to a great extent on this point, the Bishop of Manchester, who are bold enough to stem the strong current the other way." Mr. G. J. Murray has since written to the *Times* that, if we may judge of Bishop Suter's general accuracy of statement by his claiming the Bishop of Manchester as agreeing with him, his letter is of little value; for last November, at his visitation of the clergy of the diocese, Bishop Fraser said:—

"The change of the law, if it were made, would be followed by changes in the social and family life of the country, the importance of which has hardly been measured by those who clamour for it. The Bill has no principle in it; breaks in upon the Table of Degrees at a point where it is almost impossible to stop; by an arbitrary selection seeks to remove one restraint, while it leaves others which, in the eyes of its promoters, if they are consistent, must be quite as objectionable; and, in the emphatic and pointed words of the Lord Chancellor, while not constructing a new marriage law, destroys an old one. I can hardly suppose it possible that the clergy will be called upon to solemnise these marriages, which would be contrary to the express law of the Church."

Mr. Murray adds:—"It may be that the Bishop of Nelson intended his letter as a snub to the clergy of his diocese, who during his absence in England last year unanimously resolved in their Synod:—

That, in order to strengthen the hands of the clergy in refusing to marry a deceased wife's sister to her brother-in-law, the General Synod be requested to reaffirm that such marriages are expressly forbidden by the law of the Church of England, in accordance with the teaching of Holy Scripture.

This, it appears, the Bishop of New South Wales have since done in their Synod."

It is stated that during his connection with Messrs. Moxon Lord Tennyson received on an average £1,500 a year in royalties. Later Messrs. Strahan and Co. became his publishers, paying him £5,000 for his books then in existence, and a separate account for new works, which were to be published on commission. During the five years of the contract they paid the author somewhat more than £31,000. Tennyson's next publishers were Messrs. King and Co., whose engagement was to pay £4,000 a year, with a separate account for new works.

A Scotch Professor (says the *St. James's Gazette*) has made up his mind never again on any consideration whatever to tell his students what a high opinion he has of the "Dead March" in *Saul*. Music, it should be explained, is the delight of his declining years, and he puts the famous march before everything. "If a student," he explained on one unlucky day to his attentive class, "were to tell me that he had absented himself from a lecture in order to hear the 'Dead March' in *Saul*, I would consider the excuse valid." The rash assertion was received with cheers. Next day the class was very thinly attended, and the lecture interrupted by the entrance of the janitors with notes. "Dear Sir," these read, "I hope you will excuse my absence to-day, as I am off to hear the 'Dead March' in *Saul*." "Dear Sir,—Having heard that the 'Dead March' in *Saul* is to be played to-day at the cemetery, I find myself unable to stay away from it. Hoping you will, &c." "Dear Sir,—You will be pleased to hear that, after your remarks of yesterday on the subject of the 'Dead March' in *Saul*, I have bought a flute," &c. The poor man bore up for a time; but the notes of absence went from bad to worse. "Dear Sir," they began to read, "I was yesterday so fascinated by the 'Dead March' in *Saul* that I propose making a careful study of this solemn measure. In these circumstances I hope you will overlook my necessary absence from the lectures for the next few days." "Dear Sir,—I regret that on first hearing it, the 'Dead March' in *Saul* made less impression on me than I had expected. As I would be reluctant, however, to judge the piece by such slight acquaintance, I shall, with your permission, attend to-morrow's recital." And, worst of all: "Dear Sir,—We, the undersigned, have pleasure in informing you that we have joined a music class for the purpose of practising the 'Dead March' in *Saul*. Unfortunately the practising takes place during the hour of your lectures, which will prevent our attendance at the latter being as regular as we could have wished."

Mr. Brett's chief picture for the Academy is a sort of panorama of the Channel Islands from a peak in Sark. He calls it "The Norman Archipelago." On the left of the canvas lies Herm, in the middle distance; nearer the right appear Jethon and Brichon, while across the distance the higher lands of Guernsey rise above the mist which lies on the sea. It is a nearly calm day in summer, the surface of the sea is slightly rippled, as in the Chantrey picture, "Britannia's Realm." In the foreground the outflowing tide has exposed many grey, white, and seaweed-covered rocks, many more being perceptible through the limpid water. Right and left stretch the arms of a rocky bay, ending on one side in a natural arch. A few coasting craft glide lazily here and there. Not unlike Mr. Brett's picture in its general conception is the chief work of a still more illustrious sea-painter, Mr. Hook. This, to which the Shakespearian title "The weary sun hath made a golden set" has been given, is a view from Sennen Cove, looking westwards along to the Land's End. The Longships lie in the distance, the horizon rising above them. The time is the end of an autumn day; and Mr. Hook has made something of a new departure in his treatment of the sky. The sun is veiled, not hidden, in clouds which are tinged with purple, orange, and gold; and the whole picture is a harmony in a key much lower than that of which he makes use as a rule. Besides this, he has painted a bit of the Cornish coast in clear sunlight and under a high wind; a group of lazy gorged cormorants justify the title, "After dinner rest a while."

Accounts have recently been published of the receipt and expenditure of the capital and income derived from the lands and other property held for the benefit of Greenwich Hospital for the year ended on the 31st of March, 1884. The income to be accounted for is £178,398 16s. 5d., and the chief heads of receipt that go to make up this sum are the following:—Balances, £7,088 15s. 4d.; dividends on funded property, £101,306 12s. 6d.; interest on loans, £37,719 9s. 11d.; transfer from Consolidated Fund in lieu of merchant seamen's sixpences, £4,000; rents of property in Greenwich and the Isle of Dogs, £4,681 11s. 1d.; naval pensions of men during their maintenance in naval hospitals at the expense of the Greenwich Hospital funds, £1,838 7s. 2d.; the northern estates belonging to the Hospital, such as rents of farms, cottages, building leases, tileries, quarries, and colleries, royalties of mines and other miscellaneous receipts £18,741 16s. 11d. The first two items of expenditure are upon the property at Greenwich and the northern estates respectively. The sum of £1,449 16s. 7d. was devoted to the former, and in this sum are contained a contribution of £100 towards the Kent Dispensary Hospital Fund and £150 towards the renovation of St. Alphage Church. The management of the northern estates cost £6,393 9s. 9d. Sums amounting to £145,812 13s. were repaid or transferred to the Consolidated Fund. Miscellaneous charges come to £18,342 13s. 6d., and there was a balance of £6,386 11s. 2d. There has been published at the same time an account of the sums actually granted and expended during the same year for Greenwich Hospital and School. The grant made was £154,332, the expenditure £143,839 7s. 8d., so that the expenditure was less than the grant by £10,492 12s. 4d.

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PUBLIC DEBT of NEW ZEALAND.—CONVERSION of £5,772,500 NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT FIVE PER CENT. CONSOLS.—The Governor and Company of the Bank of England Give Notice that, on behalf of the agents appointed by the Governor of New Zealand in Council, under the New Zealand Consolidated Stock Act, 1877, the Amendment Act, 1881, and the Consolidated Stock Act, 1884 (Sir Francis Dillon Bell, K.C.M.G., and Sir Penrose Goodchild Julyan, K.C.M.G., C.B.), they are authorised to invite holders of the debentures of the above loan to bring in their debentures for conversion on the following terms, viz:

For every one hundred pounds of such debentures a new debenture will be issued for the same amount, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for seven years, from April 15, 1885, to April 15, 1892, when it will be converted into £107 New Zealand Four per Cent. Consolidated Stock inscribed at the Bank of England, which will rank pari passu with the Four per Cent. Consolidated Stock already created and issued, and redeemable at par on the 1st November, 1929.

Applications for conversion will be received up to April 30 next inclusive.

The interest upon the new debentures will be payable by coupons in the same manner as upon the Consol debentures—viz., January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15, at the Bank of England, the first coupon being for the dividend due July 15 next.

Consol debentures, from which the coupon due April 15 next must be detached, may be deposited at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England, for exchange on or after Wednesday, the 11th inst. They must bear all coupons subsequent to that due April 15 next, and must be left three clear days for examination. Receipts will be given for the debentures deposited, and the new debentures will be issued in exchange as soon after as possible.

The usual annual drawing for redemption of the Consols will take place on Tuesday, 31st March next; debentures deposited before that date will not be affected by the drawing. Holders of Consol Debentures drawn for redemption, in respect of which no application for conversion has been made, will be allowed to receive, in exchange for each drawn debenture, a new debenture as above, upon payment of the sum of £4 per cent., provided application be made before the 15th April next.

By the Act 40 and 41 Vict., ch. 59, the revenues of the colony of New Zealand alone will be liable in respect of the stock and the dividends thereon, and the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom, and the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, will not be directly or indirectly liable or responsible for the payment of the stock or of the dividends thereon, or for any matter relating thereto.

Bank of England, 6th March, 1885.

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RESOURCES OF THE COMPANY as at 31st December, 1883.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Net Premiums received during the year 1883, after deducting re-insurances, amounted to £1,107,745 9s. 9d.

The Net Losses by Fire during the year were, after deducting re-insurances, £672,825 13s. 10d.

This embraces not merely all losses actually ascertained and paid, but a full estimate of all claims that had arisen prior to 31st December.

The Fire Funds, after payment of the Dividend and Bonus aftermentioned, and irrespective of the Paid-up Capital, are as follow:—

Reserve	£1,170,000	0 0
Premium Reserve	369,248	9 11
Balance of Profit and Loss Account	52,986	15 3
	£1,592,235	5 2

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

894 new Policies were issued during the year, assuring	£814,819	0	0
The new Premiums on which amount to the sum of	29,672	1	5
The claims sustained during the year, including 16 endowments, were 296 in number, arising under 307 policies, and the sums payable, after deducting re-assurances, amounted, with bonus additions, to	346,122	4	4
The Income for the year of the Life Branch from premiums and interest amounted to	471,407	15	7
In the Annuity Branch 83 bonds were granted, securing annuities to the amount of £5,390 12s. 7d. yearly, for which was received by single payment the sum of	59,520	11	6
The Life Fund, now amounts to	3,340,918	11	2
The Annuity Fund now amounts to	500,275	17	11

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LONDON, April 18.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

We have passed through another week of anxiety and uncertainty, and each day have watched for some indication of the ultimate result of the strained relations between Holy Russia and England under Mr. GLADSTONE. The organ of the CZAR which hails from Northumberland-street has evening after evening endeavoured to persuade us of the justice of the Muscovite cause, and it is certainly a long time since any professedly independent English journal has taken so strongly anti-English a line. It is not for us to put into words the general feeling which floats through the air as to the part which the *Pall Mall Gazette* has played throughout this anxious time, but it is at all events remarkable that we should have found in the columns of that journal so much which could not have been gathered except from Russian sources. Our contemporary's advocacy of the cause which it has adopted has, perhaps, been more thoroughgoing than judicious; and it was certainly a strong proceeding on its part to describe as "General KOMAROFF'S justification" the despatch of the Russian commander to the Ministry of War of St. Petersburg, which was forwarded on to our Government early in the week. More dispassionate observers would be inclined to call it General KOMAROFF'S confession, for it certainly shows how entirely devoid of justification was his first advance, out of which all the subsequent troubles have arisen. It is, perhaps, well that we should have had in our midst an *advocatus diaboli* such as the editor of the *Pall Mall*, for his skilful special pleading has enabled English readers to judge how weak is the case which he deems it necessary to support by such perversions and distortions of the actual facts as have filled the columns of his journal during the past week. Perhaps the most audacious of his ventures is his apologising on Thursday evening for the seizure of Penjdeh. It is a stroke of audacity which is almost sublime when our contemporary assumes that, because the temporary retirement of the General from that place was regarded by English journalists as not worth a straw, seeing that the whole oasis lay in the hollow of his hand, therefore English journalists have no right to complain when he justifies the truth of their assertion by taking possession of the place.

The latest despatch from General KOMAROFF at the time we write, though there is no knowing what further despatches the Russian Government have in reserve, announces that he is still engaged in extending the area of Russian occupation in the admittedly debateable land which the Boundary Commission were intended to have dealt with. At the same time the belief gains ground that those who judged Mr. GLADSTONE by his former utterances and his former acts judged him more rightly than those who were deceived by his temporary display of firmness and patriotism. His observations both on Thursday and last night gave striking evidence of change of tone, and confirmed the ugly rumours that have been current in every capital in Europe, including our own, that once again our PRIME MINISTER had resolved on a policy of surrender. Truly no English Minister ever showed such a desire to be *cave-indo tutus*. We cannot say that he has been once again outmanœuvred by Russia, for General KOMAROFF'S manœuvring has been of the most simple and direct character. It is bad enough to have been so often deluded by Russian promises; but generally there has been, at all events, a decent interval between the promise and the non-performance. This time Russia has not even paid us the compliment of thinking us worth deceiving, and has not thought it worth while to go through the formality of pretending that it was only the wilful and disobedient act of a rough soldier which has placed her in so advantageous a position for the application of the *Beati possidentes* doctrine on which it seems but too probable our Ministry have resolved to act. The bold game has been the successful one, as a bold game was likely to be when the players on the other side were Mr. GLADSTONE and his colleagues.

Whether England will patiently put up with this pert humiliation at the hands of her rulers remains to be seen, but she is very much changed from the England of old if she does so. We have never belonged to the war-with-a-light heart school of politicians, and we realise the serious character of the struggle in which sooner or later we shall have to embark with Russia. But it is a struggle which will not grow less serious by being postponed, especially when the postponement is effected at the expense of national honour and of our duty to a friendly Power. Each year of delay is utilised by Russia in strengthening its basis of attack upon our Indian Empire, and we have nothing to gain by delay except the advantage of getting rid of Mr. GLADSONE, who cannot be in office for ever. The effect produced in Afghanistan itself and throughout India by so complete a surrender as that which is said to be in contemplation will be most serious. Can we blame the AMEER if he in his turn gives way to Russian influence, and, finding that we are either unable or unwilling to protect him, makes the best terms he can with the powerful enemy at his gates? Another result of the surrender can hardly fail to be the loss of Lord DUFFERIN'S services for a time, as it is most improbable that he will consent to retain office when his policy is repudiated and his pledges to the AMEER set at naught. His speech at Lahore is a sufficient indication of the view which he takes of the position, and he is not a man to use words without weighing them. He has also, with the aid of the Indian officials, military and civil, done much to remedy the mischief caused by the scuttling policy of the present Government, and we are far better prepared for war in Asia than we are in Europe, where, thanks to that Government, we have not a friend or an ally left.

The conclusion is forcing itself even upon Liberal minds that almost all from which we are now suffering can be traced home to the effect of the protestations of our present PRIME MINISTER when out of office. Even the *Guardian*, which has hitherto, through good report and ill, shown itself so prepared to justify all that Mr. GLADSTONE has said or done, is shaken in its allegiance. Our contemporary has, we are glad to find, sufficiently emancipated itself from the G. O. M. glamour to be able to realise that his administration has been "uniformly unfortunate in its conduct of "foreign affairs." As we have not yet arrived at a stage in our national existence at which we may confine ourselves entirely to domestic affairs, this is rather a serious drawback for any Administration, and to be exposed to it is a somewhat heavy price to pay for the privilege of being ruled by Mr. GLADSTONE. There is certainly a considerable advance in the political education of the *Guardian*, when it is able to realise that the Government, to which it has given so unvarying—we can hardly say so consistent—a support, has done very ill a work which it disliked doing at all. Finding that it was, to use Mr. COURTNEY'S phrase, "a great and abiding grief" to Mr. GLADSTONE and his colleagues to have to concern themselves with the Imperial rather than with the Vestry view of politics, it cannot be matter of wonder that they should have made a regular mess with Imperial politics. Though there is nothing new in the discovery of the mess so tardily made by the *Guardian*, it is not without interest for the dispassionate observer to quote out of the mouth of so devout a GLADSTONE worshipper this emphatic denunciation of the GLADSTONE policy:—"If in 1880 the Liberal leaders and "the Liberal party had seen facts as they "were, instead of as they wanted them to be, "England would have been spared some "humiliation in the past and some danger in "the present and future."

While peace and war tremble in the balance and the Imperial interests of the country are at stake, the House of Commons has been mainly occupied in discussing the details of the Redistribution Bill. Mr. RAIKES has done good service by suggesting that the divisions of counties should be described by the points of

the compass as an alternative to the names of boroughs little known out of the immediate neighbourhood, which the framer of the schedules had bestowed upon them. This will simplify matters considerably, and we can hardly doubt that in Parliamentary usage the alternative name thus supplied will supersede that borrowed from the borough except where the borough has historical or Parliamentary interest attached to it. Without doubt it will be some time before the new nomenclature becomes familiar either inside or outside the House, and the suggestion has been made to abolish the old Parliamentary tradition, and to speak of each member by his own name and not by that of the constituency which he represents. This is a change which for many reasons we should much regret, and which would remove one of the few restraints on personality which are still left to us. On Monday Mr. Talbot's important resolution in reference to school grants was brought on, and we regret that it did not meet with more general support, as it was aimed against two great evils, that of over-pressure, and that of unfairness to country schools. We have, however, dealt so fully elsewhere with the subject, and also with the discussion on the Egyptian Convention, which took place on Thursday, that we need not enlarge upon these debates, or on the various speeches, more or less wise, to which they respectively gave occasion.

While our thoughts have been so much occupied with our responsibilities in Afghanistan, our responsibilities in the Soudan have rather passed out of notice. But they none the less exist, and none the less require that a definite policy should be adopted by England. It has become evident that, whether we go to Khartoum or not in search of the Mahdi in the autumn, we must make up our mind what to do, and let the Soudanese know that we have made up our mind what to do. Though Mr. Gladstone may regard with the same philosophic indifference which he has shown elsewhere the massacre and destruction of our allies that is sure to follow on our withdrawal, we can hardly expect our allies themselves to share his equanimity. If they know that, the Mahdi once smashed, or, indeed, that whether the Mahdi is smashed or not, the English soldiers are to be withdrawn and the railway left to ruin, they are not likely to feel very keen in feeding our soldiers or working at our railway. A Mahdi—even a smashed Mahdi—remaining on the spot, is a more awkward customer to deal with than a gay old English Premier who "kills, and he rides away." If, therefore, we look for any assistance from native tribes—and there are not a few native tribes who would be glad of our assistance in shaking off the tyrannical yoke of the Hadendowas—those *quondam* friends of Mr. Gladstone, whose idea of struggling to be free involves a correlative idea of enslaving other people—we must give them some guarantee of the permanence of our protection. The best of such guarantees would have been the establishment of a permanent government in the Soudan; but, as this has been abandoned, and no other guarantee is offered by the Government as at present advised, we can hardly be surprised that we find some difficulty in finding native friends. If we really meant opening and keeping open the road to Berber from the sea, the news of the past week would be encouraging. Lord Wolseley reports the health of the troops as satisfactory, and has recovered his rose-coloured cast of thought sufficiently to stand up for the climate of the Soudan. General Graham's troops have made a successful advance to Otao, and are to move to Handoub on Monday, while the capture of a large supply of provisions intended for Osman Digna will be a great loss to him and a great gain to us.

M. Ferry has addressed to the *Times* a letter denying the truth of the whole story as to the negotiations of peace with China to which we referred last week. It appears that the great De Blowitz was misinformed, and that the ex-Minister did not, after quitting office, conclude a treaty with China of which his successors were unaware. But there is still something very curious about the story, if we accept, as we are bound to do, M. Ferry's repudiation of the unwonted course of action attributed to him by the *Times* correspondent. If he did not make a fool of M. Brisson, M. Brisson made a fool of the Chamber. As far as the statesmen of the French Republic are concerned, there is not much to choose between the two versions of the story. M. Ferry, with the treaty in his pocket, laughing in his sleeve at his successor mounting the tribune and demanding with impassioned eloquence a vote of credit for the vigorous prosecution of the war with China is not an edifying object of contemplation But not one whit more edifying is M. Brisson mounting the tribune as aforesaid with the knowledge that the treaty had been already concluded. No explanation has yet been vouchsafed by the present Prime Minister, and he will find it difficult to put off on yet a third person the responsibility of deceiving the Chamber which M. Ferry has shifted on to his shoulders. Fortunately for him, the country is so glad to have made peace on any terms that the Deputies are not likely to inquire too minutely who is the real author of the comedy played at their expense.

The King of Terrors has been busy of late, and has numbered among his victims many notable names. By a curious coincidence, the week following the death of Lord Cairns has seen his successor in office suffer the heaviest loss which can fall on man—that of a wife endeared to her family circle by every private virtue, and endeared to a yet wider circle than that of her own family by the memory of many an act of kindness and many an act of self-sacrifice. It is not too rudely to lift the veil which hides the last days of Lady Selborne from the public gaze to say that her end was hastened by her labours on behalf of her sorely afflicted fellow men and women at the East-end of London. How earnestly and indefatigably she laboured on their behalf was little known outside her own domestic circle. But there was abundant evidence given of the appreciation of those labours by those on whom they were bestowed, when among the tributes to her memory heaped above the grave in that quiet country churchyard, and among the mourners who gathered sadly round that grave, were to be found so many tributes sent by loving but humble hands, so many loving but humble friends. Nor should it pass without notice that the funeral ceremony breathed throughout the spirit of Christian hope rather than that of despairing sadness, which is too apt to be associated with our funerals. To the record of the death of the great English ex-Chancellor, and of the beloved wife of the present English Chancellor, is to be added that of the Irish Chancellor, which was fearfully sudden. Sir Edward Sullivan was struck down on Monday evening by heart disease in the very midst of his career, and without any note of warning. He was, curiously enough, the third Irish Chancellor who has died during the five years that the present Government have held office; and as the most prominent Irish lawyers are now to be found on the Opposition benches, his loss will be difficult to supply. Though he had not won for himself any very marked place among the holders of his great office, he was an able and industrious lawyer, and a popular man who might have been fairly expected to have many years of good and useful work before him.

Nor should the death of Sir George Sartorius pass without notice. He was the last survivor of the old school of naval officers who served their apprenticeship under the giants who, in the great war with Republican and Imperial France at the beginning of the century, had shown what English seamen could do. We may trust that, when called upon, their successors, though bred in a different school, will show themselves worthy descendants of Nelson's seadogs. The career of this veteran officer, who entered the service eighty-two years ago, was a distinguished one, and he well earned the high and honourable post which he held to the day of his death, when he passed away from among his countrymen *plenus annis, felicissime*. But it is probable that more of public interest than has been aroused by the death of the amiable and kind-hearted Lady Selborne, of the accomplished lawyer Sir Edward Sullivan, and of the veteran Admiral Sir George Sartorius, has been called forth by that of the late Lord Mayor. More than a century has elapsed since any of his predecessors died in office, the last instance being that of the much-overrated Beckford, whose mendacious monument in the Guildhall yet records a speech which he never made. Lord Mayor Nottage filled his high office with distinction, and won the favourable opinion of all those with whom he was brought into contact, so that there is but one sentiment of regret throughout the City at the loss of so kindly and large-hearted a civic ruler. He had no doubt one great fault, that he was a Liberal; but he was not a bigoted one, and did not allow his political sympathies to interfere with the impartial discharge of his civic duties. A high tribute was paid to him by Dr. Liddon when preaching at St. Paul's on Sunday last, and to-day he is to be accorded the honour of a public funeral in that Cathedral. His place has been taken by his immediate predecessor in office, whose praise is too well known to require to be here repeated.

ON PRIMROSE DAY.

To-morrow is the fourth anniversary of the death of Lord Beaconsfield, and there is a melancholy dramatic propriety in the fact that on such a day the situation of the Empire should be such as it is. For the space of five years the Policy of Reversal has been steadily pursued; and exactly at the end of five years it seems to have visibly reached its consummation. The crowning triumph of Lord Beaconsfield's statesmanship was won at the expense of Russia. The men who set themselves to undo and to counteract his work find themselves to-day confronted by the identical problem with which he had then to deal, but—thanks to their management of our foreign affairs—under absolutely reversed conditions. They have scoffed at his scientific Indian frontier; they have destroyed the Quetta railway (now being reconstructed laboriously and "too late"); they have thrown away Candahar, for the retention of which he pleaded almost with his dying breath; they have cast off the alliances he contracted with so much foresight and cemented with so much skill; they have allowed the defences of the Empire to dwindle to a state of dangerous inefficiency; and now they have to face the enemies of the country, not with the certainty of securing Peace with Honour, but with the bitter alternative of War or Disgrace.

For that such is the alternative actually presented to our Government to-day there is unhappily but too little reason to doubt. And as to which horn of the dilemma they will elect to sit upon there is, we fear, but little doubt likewise. Their delay in openly avowing their decision can deceive nobody. What is the true meaning of all this procrastination? Why all this affectation of an anxiety to collect "evidence" before arriving at a conclusion, as though we had not evidence enough and to spare already? Why all this waste of valuable time—and, what is more, this concession of valuable time to our enemies—while Sir Peter Lumsden's reports are being referred to General Komaroff, and General Komaroff's reports are being referred to Sir Peter Lumsden? Can the British Government place so little reliance on its own officers—on the very men whom it has sent to the Afghan frontier to act as its own eyes and ears—that it declines to believe their word unless it accords with the "evidence" of a hostile commander? Let the palpable absurdity of such a notion be a sufficient reply. If all that is wanted is sufficient "evidence" to prove that Russia has distinctly and deliberately broken her solemn promise of the 17th of March, overwhelming testimony in the affirmative is furnished by General Komaroff's own admissions. Nay, the simple fact of a "provisional" Russian government being established at Penjdeh is of itself a proof so cogent that, standing alone, it would more than suffice to convict Russia of a breach of her engagement. Therefore, we repeat, the pretence of the Government to need further information before arriving at a decision is nothing but a sham and a make-believe, designed to mislead public opinion at home. The clear significance of all this dawdling is that Ministers have made up their minds to give in, and that they are casting about for the nearest approach to a decent excuse for doing so. The state of utter desperation to which which they have been reduced is illustrated by the degrading and contemptible exhibition which the Prime Minister made of himself on Thursday evening, when he actually had the effrontery to tell the House of Commons that he was ignorant whether any proposal had been made by Russia for the cession of Penjdeh, in consequence of his "not having been present "at the interviews between Lord Granville "and the Russian Ambassador."

For ourselves, we have never professed to place the least reliance on the intention of the Radical Government to uphold what Mr. Gladstone called a "national" policy. Experience has warned us never to repose the least trust in anything that the Prime Minister may say. That is a painful declaration to have to make of any statesman, but it is the simple fact. He assures us now that the interview of the Ameer Abdur Rahman with the Viceroy at Rawul Pindi has been "entirely satisfactory." That may or may not be the case. Even if it be true, the Ameer is not such a fool as to prefer our alliance to that of Russia unless we can give him reasons of a solid practical character for doing so; and we may be sure that both he and all Central Asia have not failed to note which Power it is that is always advancing, and which Power it is that is always yielding. The sinister rumours of the last few days will, if they turn out to be correct, knock another nail in the coffin of British *prestige* in Asia. It may not be true that Penjdeh is to be formally given up to Russia, but it is exceedingly probable. At any rate, Russia has actually occupied Penjdeh without any opposition from us, and it is as certain as anything can be that our Government has not the least intention of attempting to eject her either from Penjdeh or from any other position which she at present holds by force. All this, we repeat, is just what we expected. This is the end of the appeals to the country to "strengthen the hands" of the Government in a time of difficulty. We have been from the outset entirely opposed to allowing any further repetition of the Radical Confidence Trick, because we felt certain that the generosity of the British people would only be once more shamefully abused. We held that the one thing needed before any satisfactory solution of our difficulties was possible was the expulsion from office of this Government of Infamy. That was our conviction weeks ago, and the subsequent course of events has, if possible, only strengthened it.

PEACE WITH DISHONOUR.

We have never shared the apprehension of war with Russia while Mr. Gladstone is in power. The Crimean War was forced upon the Cabinet of which he was a member by a House of Commons too patriotic to endure the craven surrender of British honour to Russian aggression. It was Lord Aberdeen's avowed determination not to resist the Russian aggression which betrayed the Emperor Nicholas into hostilities which he never intended, and which ultimately broke his heart. The country would not stand it, and the moment the Russians crossed the Pruth the Government was forced, sorely against its will, into a war which it was unable to conduct. After gallant victories thrown away, and a mismanagement unparalleled in the dark history of official incapacity, Mr. Gladstone and his Premier were driven from power, and Lord Palmerston concluded a war which was unnecessary at the beginning, and of no advantage to any one but the King of Sardinia at the end. Mr. Gladstone is the same now, but the House of Commons is very different. He will yield—in fact, has yielded—everything to Russia that Russia may choose to demand, and the House of Commons will resist nothing he does, however much it may disapprove. Until the dissolution Mr. Gladstone is master of the situation, and he is quite capable of destroying the British Empire before the year is out.

We are not of those who accuse Mr. Gladstone of vacillation. He is firm enough to those from whom he has nothing to fear, and he is always consistent in truckling to the strong. Egypt is a weak Power; consequently Mr. Gladstone could invade and trample upon it with impunity, though, to do him justice, he never meant to do so. He sent the fleet to Alexandria as a "demonstration." He never expected it to fire a shot, as was shown by Mr. Bright resigning his seat in the Cabinet the moment it commenced active hostilities. Nothing could be more absurd than to bombard Alexandria in the cause of the Khedive, its undisputed Sovereign. Mr. Gladstone expected Arabi to knock under before the imposing "demonstration;" but Arabi, not caring a straw for Alexandria, and with good reason thinking Mr. Gladstone a greater coward than himself, insulted the fleet. To that, however, the Admiral could not submit, and hence the war.

That the war was never intended was shown again by the want of all means of taking possession when the bombardment was finished. Hence the conflagration, and the indemnity of four millions awarded against the Khedive for the ruin wrought by his British allies. Then came the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, planned at the Horse Guards in the most complete "Jingo" style for the destruction of the Egyptian army. Cairo was entered in triumph; our ally, the Khedive, virtually deposed; and then no one had a notion what to do next. This was not vacillation, for that implies a change of purpose; and Mr. Gladstone has never had any purpose in Egypt. He has simply obeyed the instinct described by Archbishop Whately of rushing into a *cul de sac*, and knocking his head against the closed end. "And the wonder "is (added the Archbishop), that he never sees "this"!

If Lord Beaconsfield had been in power, not a shot would have been fired nor a drop of blood shed in Egypt. The House of Lords would have lacked two unnecessary members, and the country would have saved their pensions. There would have been no bombardment, and no Tel-el-Kebir; no slaughter in the Soudan, no betrayal at Khartoum, no

expedition up the Nile, and no humiliating failure after enormous expenditure of blood and treasure to no imaginable purpose. At a word from him to the Sultan Arabi would have been suppressed, and Egypt would have escaped the anarchy inflicted on her by British interference.

The case is very different with Russia. Russia is a strong Power; and Mr. Gladstone cowers to the strong as consistently as he tramples on the weak. He is as well known at St. Petersburgh as in Ireland. Let him put on ever so bold a face, he invariably falters before a bolder. It is brag against bully, and bully wins, as when the Russian troops advanced at the end of last year within the Afghan frontier. Mr. Gladstone promptly required them to retire till the boundary was delimited, and they as promptly refused. Mr. Gladstone let the demand "lapse," and continued the negotiation, while the Russians pushed on. They have now attacked the Afghans, and driven them out of Penjdeh. Mr. Gladstone talks big and asks for explanations, while the Russians seize all the country up to the Kushk and threaten Herat. Presently we shall hear that M. de Giers disavows the "agreement" or "arrangement" extemporised by Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons, and the Premier in a cloud of phrases will "frankly accept" the disavowal. Then the delimitation will be resumed, with an understanding that the Russians are to keep Penjdeh, and perhaps Herat too, if they have got it. Sir Peter Lumsden will be replaced for a more accomodating Commissioner, and Mr. Gladstone will announce peace where there is no peace, but abundance of dishonour.

But what of the Ameer? Why, the Ameer is an Afghan: with one eye on England and the other on Russia. For the moment he is in raptures with Lord Dufferin: he leaves the question of the frontier confidently in the hands of the Queen's Ministers. He goes home laden with honours, treasure, and guns. He will keep and get all he can, and when he finds his frontier given over to the Czar he will say to himself, "Russia is the coming Power," and make ready for a raid upon India in company with his new allies.

"THE AGE OF PROGRESS."

An article in the new number of the *Quarterly Review*, forming a kind of sequel to one on "The Nature of Democracy" which appeared six months ago, is just now deservedly attracting a considerable amount of public attention. It is entitled "The Age of Progress," and the writer aims some destructive blows at several of the most prevalent popular political fallacies. With reference to the common opinion that the democratic movement is simply irresistible, he shows very clearly that the passion for political change, so far from being a universal and permanent phenomenon of human nature, is solely due to exceptional causes. The entire Mohammedan world detests what we call "reform"; so do multitudes of coloured and savage men; so especially do the millions of Chinamen; and so, too, does the vast mass of the people of India. The enthusiasm for change is, however, not only rare, it is extremely modern. Even in our own country it is of recent origin. In the last century the British Parliament hardly legislated at all. In fact, the love of change, now thought to be overpowering, is limited to a very narrow sphere of action. In matters unconnected with politics even we Englishmen are by no means given to change. We do not readily change our habits, nor yet our manners. Women, especially, are strictly conservative in all matters of usage. And the fact of this slight changeableness of human nature is still farther borne out by investigations into the modes of life and social usages of man in the most primitive ages, which have taught us that, in many respects, the differences between savage man and civilised man are not so great as has been thought. Like the savage, the civilised man makes war, hunts, and dances; he indulges in endless deliberation; he loves rhetoric; he is a man of party.

It being shown, then, that human nature is not wedded to change, and that it changes only gradually and within narrow limits, what are the causes of the prevailing, though exceptional, enthusiasm for political change among ourselves? One is the keen interest which political activity possesses for a popularly governed community. Englishmen are enthralled by the spectacle of public events being enacted before them. The danger is in looking upon politics as though it were a deeply-interesting game—a match between the political parties. Yet the legislative measures which arouse all this interest are such that upon them the whole future of the country is staked. And even measures for reforming the Constitution involve no extraordinary solemnity of procedure. Moreover, the possibilities of beneficial reform are strictly limited. It does not follow that because some reforms have succeeded, therefore all reforms will succeed. Hence the necessity of caution in indulging in this pastime of politics, in which the two great parties compete in legislative innovation. Englishmen take all the prosperity that they have enjoyed since the beginning of the century as a matter of course. No such calamities have happened to us as have befallen other nations. But we should be rash in supposing that we shall always enjoy a like immunity from disaster, especially if by taking any false steps we should multiply occasions for national calamities. Another influential cause of a belief in what is called Progress is to be found in certain words, phrases, maxims, and general propositions, which have their root in the long since exploded theories of Rousseau and Bentham. Rousseau's idea of the Social Compact originated the notion of the People as the sole source of power, and the conception of the omnipotent democratic State disposing absolutely of individual men, their persons, their property, and their independence. The "natural condition of "man," from which Rousseau started, is a simple figment of the imagination. Bentham's doctrine of the "greatest happiness for the greatest "number" is a perfectly right standard of legislative reform. His error lay in the assumption that the greatest number must know what will promote its own happiness. Rousseau had taught that the people ought to be all-powerful: Bentham held that it was all-wise.

The fact is that the common sense of mankind has everywhere revolted against these ideas. The advantage which historical Constitutions enjoy over brand-new Constitutions resting on speculative assumptions has been exhibited over and over again. The Constitutions of the latter type almost always have but a brief existence. This is a point of special importance to Englishmen just now, in connection with the outcry against the House of Lords. Though the agitation suddenly collapsed last autumn, it will certainly be revived before long. All Second Chambers, by whatever name they may be called, are founded on a denial of the assertion that the people are all-wise and infallible. It is admitted that there is no divinity about the First Chamber. It is liable to err. Hence the need for a Second Chamber. The object of having a Second Chamber is to possess an additional security; any Second Chamber, therefore, is better than none. This misgiving as to the absolute wisdom of popularly-elected Chambers is based on experience and common sense, and that it is very widespread is testified by the existence of Second Chambers everywhere. And of these the only two Second Chambers that have enjoyed any duration to speak of are the American Senate and our own House of Lords. The American Senate has proved a great success, but it can hardly afford us any lessons which can be of use in amending the House of Lords. If any improvements of our Upper House are required, the task of effecting them had best be left to the Peers themselves.

THE EGYPTIAN LOAN AND THE SUEZ CANAL.

It is so far a satisfactory result of the course pursued by Sir Richard Cross in proposing his amendment to the motion for going into Committee on the Egyptian Loan Bill, that the Government has now distinctly undertaken to afford Parliament an opportunity of expressing its opinion on the Convention respecting the Suez Canal before it is finally ratified. The connection between the International Loan scheme and the negotiations now in progress as to the future regulation of the Canal is obvious enough, and entirely justifies the demand that the former shall not take effect until the future of the Canal is settled. The proposals of Lord Granville's Circular of 1883 may be briefly described as aiming at making the Canal entirely free to all; the rival French project is intended to bring about its subjection to an international control—a very different thing. The freedom of the Canal would be most advantageous to this country, to whom it is all-important that her high road to India should be kept open. For that very reason France, our implacable enemy in Egypt, is violently opposed to the English plan, and has set up one of her own, which, if it be carried out, will inflict a double injury on British interests—first by hampering the free use of the Canal, and secondly by opening another door to the admission of International Control in Egypt. It is said that the English delegates at the Conference on the Canal are offering a stout resistance to the French proposals. While we hope this may be true, it is almost too much to hope that their resistance will be successful.

The setting up of an International Control is the great danger that now menaces us in Egypt. As regards the International Loan, there was nothing whatever in the debate on Thursday evening calculated in any way to reassure the country that our paramount interests in Egypt, for the maintenance of which we have made so many and so great sacrifices, are not being simply ridden over roughshod by the rest of Europe. Mr. Gladstone, as usual, tried to deceive his audience by a deliberate and audacious misrepresentation. He had been reminded the other day by Lord Salisbury of the opposition he had himself offered thirty years ago to the Anglo-French guarantee of the Turkish Loan, and of the grounds upon which he had based that opposition. He now has the effrontery to declare that "the foundation of the objec- "tion taken in 1855 was a belief that the "Turkish Government would probably be "unable to fulfil the conditions of the "guarantee." The statement is simply untrue. So far from Turkey's probable inability to pay being the "foundation of "the objection," Mr. Gladstone expressly declared in 1855 that that was by no means the worst feature of the guarantee. "The worst of this guarantee is that all "the guaranteeing Powers acquire a political "hold upon Turkey." Precisely so; and similarly the worst of this Egyptian guarantee is that the guaranteeing Powers will acquire a political hold upon Egypt, and will oust us from that position of predominance which (Lord Randolph Churchill must pardon us for observing) it is the special object of the Leaders of the Tory party to maintain.

It has been over and over again alleged that Parliament has "no choice" but to assent to this scheme of the Egyptian Loan. We take that assertion to signify, in plain English, that if Parliament refuses to accept it, the European Powers will declare war against England. It means either that or nothing; and, this being the case, we take the liberty of making these two observations—first, that we don't believe a word of the statement; and, secondly, that even if it is true it by no means follows that a British Parliament should be cowed into submitting tamely to a measure injurious to the Empire at the bidding of foreign Powers. In any case, however, let the Government speak plainly, instead of dealing in innuendoes. If the International Loan scheme is offered us at the point of the bayonet, let us be told so outright, and let Parliament and the country judge accordingly. Then, if we are really compelled to yield to superior force, let us accept the result frankly with all its consequences. The first of those consequences would be that we should cease to play catspaw to the other Powers, and leave them to undertake between them the responsibility and the expense of maintaining order in Egypt. And now, finally, a word as to the reiterated Ministerial appeal for support in this, as in other matters, on the ground of the necessity of "all parties "co-operating in cordial and hearty union to "maintain the honour and existence of the "Empire," and so forth, and so forth. We are perfectly sick of the "united front" argument. The plea is simply a stale device for propping up a traitorous Government in power, and helping it to wreck the British Empire. No matter how grave the political situation may be, the downfall of Mr. Gladstone's Ministry could make matters no worse, and would probably effect an instant good.

PAYMENT BY RESULTS.

Mr. J. G. Talbot did good service to the cause of Elementary Education on Monday last, by raising a debate in the House of Commons respecting the present unsatisfactory mode of distributing the Parliamentary Grant for Education. He did not ask for a single penny more than is now given; but he asked that the money should be distributed upon a better and sounder principle than it is at present. The total grant for the year ended December 31, 1884, amounted nearly to two and three-quarter millions for the instruction of scholars in elementary schools. This sum was exclusive of the cost of inspectors and of clerks in London. These items would bring up the whole bill for elementary education to three millions of pounds or thereabouts. For the present let these latter items be excluded from view. Let us ask on what principle is the distribution of the two and three quarter millions conducted. About one-fourth of this large sum is awarded to the schools in proportion to the average attendance of scholars at each of them. The other three-fourths are dependent upon the "results" of an annual examination, conducted usually in a very hurried manner, by an inspector and an assistant trained to examine a hundred children in several subjects in the course, very often, of a single forenoon.

The main object of Mr. Talbot's motion was to reverse this anomalous state of things, and to make the larger part of the grant depend upon the number of children in average attendance at a school, and the lesser part depend upon the chances of a single day's hasty examination by a jaded official. The Government Grant is usually limited to 17s. 6d. per scholar. Of this sum only 4s. 6d. is certain to be paid. All the rest depends upon the annual examination. All the rest, therefore, is more or less uncertain. The promoters of the school and the teachers tremble as the day of examination approaches. They strain every nerve to prepare their tiny scholars for the fierce ordeal. They study the peculiarities and whims of the Inspector. They learn what are his pet subjects, and even his pet form of putting questions. They arrange everything with the view of saving him trouble, and of keeping him in good temper. They know that if the Inspector loses his temper (no uncommon thing) during the inspection, their grant may be seriously reduced in amount. They know that only four-and-sixpence per scholar can be scarcely reckoned upon, and that thirteen shillings per scholar are trembling in the balance.

No wonder that they feel anxious and nervous. It would be surprising if their anxiety were not imparted to their scholars, who have been for many weeks daily drilled with an eye to the yearly examination as the most important event of the whole twelvemonth. In hundreds of cases the salaries of the teachers are largely dependent upon the results of each examination. In all cases their credit is at stake once a year. Under such circumstances it is impossible for men, women, and children to avoid being anxious and "worried" about the yearly examination. It is "worry" that kills more than work. If the examination were limited to the elder children, the nuisance might be borne with more equanimity. But the Mundella Code (precious document!) lays down the law that "scholars over seven years old "must, as a rule, be examined"! Let the reader picture to himself some little urchin of his acquaintace who is just over seven years old, and consider whether such an infant is a suitable subject for an examination sternly conducted by an Oxford or Cambridge graduate who has taken high honours at his University. Surely we might ask that children under ten years of age might be exempt from individual examination and from the anxiety attending it. The latest return made to Parliament shows that more than 1,000,000 children under ten years old were in the last year (1884) subject to individual examination. It was amongst children of these tender years that the instances of overpressure most frequently occurred.

Mr. Mundella and his sycophants have raised a cuckoo cry about "under-feeding" as being the real cause of "overpressure," wherever it exists. They propose penny dinners as the panacea. They would show more sense, and more humanity likewise, if they would abandon the *doctrinaire* trick of subjecting to the trying ordeal of an annual examination poor little trembling children just seven years of age. In no other country in the world is such an absurdity heard of. The German schoolmasters set up shouts of laughter when they hear that in England this ridiculous and unnatural practice prevails. We challenge Mr. Mundella to adduce a single authority in favour of this practice from any of the Continental countries whose educational systems he has so often eulogised. Neither in Russia, nor in Switzerland, nor in Saxony, where it is said he employs a great many hands in making stockings, &c., at a cheaper rate than he can get them made in England, will he be able to find any support for this irrational system of making three-fourths of the grant depend upon the individual examination of young children from seven years old and upwards. In these countries there are of course Inspectors of schools; but they test the efficiency of schools upon a plan entirely different from the Chinese system of examination adopted by English Inspectors under the orders of Mr. Mundella and his Department of Education. In those countries teachers of Elementary schools are at liberty to place their little scholars in such classes as they think best for them. It is not so in England.

The English Code expects all children to make equal progress in each year, except some excuse can be found for non-fulfilment of this martinet regulation, which might be supposed to have first emanated from the brain of some drill-sergeant accustomed to make a company of soldiers keep step together.

The speech of Lord George Hamilton in the debate was a most valuable contribution, coming as it did from one who has been Vice-President of the Council, and in that capacity has had the direction of the Education Department. He utterly condemned the present system of examination. He would like to see it swept away: and would like to go back to the system of paying grants on the average attendance of the children, with liberty to Inspectors to report upon the school generally. He "felt sure that the system of payment by "results induced a pressure upon the children "of the very poor to which they would never "allow their own children to be subject." He "believed that this system would have to be "abandoned sooner or later." For these words we are quite sure that Lord George Hamilton will receive the silent thanks of thousands of over-worked teachers throughout the country. It is quite time that the Conservative side of the House should realise the value of having the great body of Elementary teachers upon their side. By natural associations the majority of them belong to Conservatism; but unfortunately for our cause very few Members of Parliament on our side of the political arena have hitherto taken the trouble to master the details respecting Elementary education and the just claims of Elementary teachers. Many of the latter have, consequently, learned to look to certain Liberal members of Parliament for sympathy; but they have latterly begun to find out that these smooth-tongued and fair-spoken gentlemen do not go far beyond using civil words and making vague promises. At the next general election the votes and influence of thirty-nine thousand certified teachers will count for something. It would be both a right and a prudent course to follow if Conservative candidates all over England would adopt the sentiments so clearly propounded by Lord George Hamilton, and would let it be generally understood that they are in favour of exempting very young children from an annual examination, and of making the Parliamentary grants to schools depend less and less upon mere "mechanical and show "results," as they have been described in the House of Lords by Lord Norton, who is (alas!) almost the only Conservative nobleman who has taken an active and intelligent interest in the work of Elementary Education.

LORD BRAMWELL ON DRINK.

"Not nohow," said the landlord in one of George Eliot's novels, feeling that where negatives are good, the more one has of them the better. And "Not nohow" is the reply of the landlord's best friend, Lord Bramwell, to the Temperance Doctors of the day. "Not "nohow; we will have none of you. You "say, through the mouth of the new Bishop "of London, that a man must be stone blind "not to know that much of the distress and "misery among the poor is caused by in-"temperance. True enough. But you con-"fuse cause and effect. It is also true that "much of the intemperance and misery "among the poor is caused by their distress "and misery. But we make you a present of "your entire case in its strongest form, and "then we ask you, why are not forty-nine Eng-"lishmen to be allowed to use virtuously "what the fiftieth uses viciously?" To forbid drink, wholly or in part, in place or in time, is to interfere with the innocent enjoyment of millions in order to lessen the mischief arising from the folly or evil propensities, not of themselves, but of others. Punish the mischievous drunkard, punish him for being drunk in public, and so making himself a likely source of mischief. Punish, on the same principle, the man who sells drink to the drunken. And punish most severely of all the police who wink at drunkenness in publichouses, and do not interfere to deprive a landlord of his licence when he encourages drinking in excess. But so far we will go, and no farther. The evil of intemperance, which we admit in all its intensity, cannot be effectually stamped out in this fashion. Give the poor better, brighter homes; give them cheerful amusement instead of monotonous dulness; social enjoyment in lieu of domestic cares, and they will be less inclined than at present to seek distractions from their misery in the publichouse, the only refuge at which they are always welcome, the one caravanserai at which they can surely reckon, with Sir Walter Scott, on finding a hearty and a warm reception.

Granting, then, the axiom of the Temperance men, that immense mischief is caused by excessive drinking—granting this unreservedly, and not pausing even to demur to the statistics which make out that £134,000,000 are spent on drink every year—granting all this, what does the Temperance case come to? Alcohol is simply poison. That is one view. And to this Lord Bramwell replies with the opinion of Sir James Paget, who has spoken in these measured words:—"I would maintain this, "and all that can reasonably be deduced from "it—viz, that the best and, in proportion to "numbers, the largest quantity of brain work "has been, and still is being, done by the "people of those nations in which the use of "alcoholic drinks has been and is habitual. "Further, I would maintain that, so far as I "can judge of the brain work of different "persons, they have done the best and most "who have habitually and temperately taken "alcoholic drinks." So much for the extremist section. There are, however, the more reasonable controversialists who believe that as alcohol is poison to some, its use should in charity be avoided by the rest. This is a far more taking theory. It has to many an attractiveness as an abnegation of self. Drinking in moderation is a small matter for the temperate, and a terribly vital matter for the intemperate. Therefore let the temperate give up this luxury for the sake of their intemperate and weaker brethren. At the root of this argument lies the fallacy which, in the region of thought, begins to attack formalism by removing forms instead of infusing spirit. The scaffolding must be pulled down because the house is not properly built. Besides, if we are to be logical, we must give up all luxuries, all that is not absolutely needful to maintain a bare existence. If we can exist on bread and water, why are we to allow ourselves meats and cates on the one hand, and live amid the dreariness of temperance drinks on the other? If the one thing is wrong, argal, the other is wrong also. From the point of view of the greatest happiness to the greatest number, Lord Bramwell argues that alcohol does much more good than harm. He declares that a *modicum* of alcohol is extremely important for himself and his class, the brain-workers. Whether it be technically food or not, it possesses a most valuable power of reviving after exhaustion, and invigorating for fresh or for more concentrated effort. Beyond dispute, it bestows upon millions in these islands an enormous amount of enjoyment—is in itself, and to them, at all events, innocent. He sees no reason—and there is no reason—why he and his fellows should be constrained to total abstinence as a warning to the tipsy of the pains and penalties of inebriety.

No one—no Judge upon the Bench—is better qualified than Lord Bramwell to speak with authority on the relations which undoubtedly exist between drink and crime, which form a large part of the capital on every Temperance platform. The result of his ripe judicial experience is sketched in the pages before us. "There is no doubt," he says, "that crime is "caused by drink. It is certain that more is "drunk on Saturdays, and more crime com-"mitted on that day than any other. The "drunken man is more likely to commit a "crime of violence or robbery than the sober. "The drunken man, also, is more likely to "have a crime committed on him in his help-"less state than is the sober man." If a Judge, whose second nature it is to measure his words and form his opinions with the utmost deliberation, can speak as Lord Bramwell does in the plenitude of his experience and the fulness of his years, Canon Ellison and his friends had better look to their harness, that there be no single link wanting in the chain of the argument. "Self-help "*versus* State-help" is one watchword of the Liberty and Property Defence League, whose opinions are every day gaining a prominence largely due to the telling blows of the hard-hitting Castor and Pollux, Lord Bramwell and his brother of the Royal Society. "Toler-"ance" will, we imagine, be another of the League's watchwords. They would advise teetotallers, as did John Stuart Blackie, in words which were not his own, "to take a "little wine for their stomach's sake," and not to be angry with their neighbour because he takes too much—provided, of course, that he must not be riotous, or drunk in the public streets. If he does these things, punish him. All that liquor laws can do, at the most, is to make men better who do not want to be made better, and to make men better who have not self-control. Each of these things is done at the expense of others. The sober man is punished; he loses a pleasure, in order that the intemperate man may not be tempted. The drunkard says, in effect, to the sober man, "You shall "not enjoy a glass of beer; because, if you "can get it, so could I, and I shall make a "beast of it myself with it." This is the mischief of the liquor laws. And they are evaded because public opinion does not go unreservedly with them, just as, in a former day, the laws against duelling were evaded, because the "honour of a gentleman" demanded that he should accept his adversary's challenge, and just as, in our own day, the laws against gambling are ineffectual, because no man can see why he should not lose his money at cards or dice if he chooses to do a thing so foolish and unprofitable. So it is with drinking a glass of beer. Everyone knows it is not wrong. No discredit attaches to it, any more than discredit attached to Charles Fox or his friend Fitzpatrick, at Brooks's, if they went beyond their traditional third bottle of port. We may be quite sure that Sheridan was not received a whit less cordially at the Cocoa-Tree than was his wont, on the morning after he had been found in the gutter by the watchman with only sense enough to respond that his name was Mr. Wilberforce. This is why the law has failed. And this is why nothing can, or ought to be, done by the law in diminishing the mischief caused by drink. We must not forget, after all, that the man who drinks so much alcohol as is good for him and no more is an infinitely stronger man and a far more deserving member of society than the man who refuses to drink a single glass because he fears that he will feel an imperious want of more than is good for him, and is not strong enough to resist that temptation. Let us, then, remember Lord Bramwell's parting words of advice, and trust to the good sense and improvement of mankind, and let charity be shown to those who would trust to them rather than to law.

A UNITARIAN CONFERENCE.

It is announced that "the Second National "Conference" of Unitarians has been held in Birmingham on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in this week. As probably the world at large was quite unaware that a First National Conference of this heretical denomination had ever been held, the event has all the attraction of novelty. Notwithstanding the imposing sound of the title, the "National Conference" will only be representative of a non-Christian sect consisting of about three hundred congregations, and the un-national character of the concern is apparent from the fact that Unitarianism is happily unknown in six English counties, in nine Welsh, in twenty-six Scotch, and in twenty-eight Irish counties. The advertisements state that "Liberal "Christian, Free Christian, Presbyterian, and "other non-subscribing or kindred congregations" will be included in the Conference; but all these epithets are merely so many convenient aliases for the name Unitarian, which is usually shirked as much as possible. The great Presbyterian bodies of Scotland and England have received no notice of this Conference, and would not attend it if they had; and if they chanced to see the advertisement, which has been inserted in a few obscure Unitarian papers, they would wonder at the appearance of the Presbyterian name in such a motley company. That the terms Liberal Christian and Free Christian are not meant to apply to any really Christian congregations, may be inferred from the circumstance that the advertisement did not appear in the representative journal of any Christian denomination. The Congregationalists, for instance, who are just as vociferous as the Unitarians about "Liberalism" and "Freedom," were not invited to attend this "National Conference." The Unitarians labour under one great disadvantage, that they themselves have never yet been able to agree upon what Unitarianism really is. Mr. Beard, one of their leading preachers, says, "People know what the Thirty-nine Articles "mean, but I never found two people agreeing as "to what 'Unitarian' meant." Hence it comes to pass that except for works of negation and destruction the Unitarians seldom manage to pull together; and their chief teacher, Dr. Martineau, has warned them that "negation "supplies no bond of union." Even the Scriptures no longer afford a common foundation of faith and works to the Unitarians. It is more than sixty years since the Rev. Thomas Belsham declared "that the Scriptures of the Old and New "Testament contain everything necessary to faith "and practice," and since his day "Liberal "theology" and "unfettered criticism" have made a pretty clean sweep of the Scriptures, so that now only a few old-fashioned Unitarians would make pretence of sticking to the Bible as the rule of faith and practice, and they are probably adepts in the art of "explaining away," of which the Unitarian hero, Theodore Parker, in the last generation, wrote, "To such a proficiency "has this art of explaining away been carried "that the Scripture is a piece of wax in the "Unitarian hand, and takes any shape." The tone of Biblical criticism in Unitarian circles is illustrated by a book of the Rev. H. S. Solly, recently published by the Unitarian Sunday-school Association, which says that "the Book of "the Acts of the Apostles is untrustworthy, and "full of erroneous statements," and that St. Luke, its author, had "an object in view quite incon-"sistent with the simple desire to tell the truth." We also find the Tutor of the chief Unitarian college calling the Apostles' Creed "a strange col-"lection of theological monstrosities."

It is evident, therefore, that there is but scanty ground for religious union amongst Unitarians. The objects for which they most readily unite are, in fact, political rather than religious, and they are among the warmest adherents of the agitators who set up clap-trap cries about "civil and religious liberty." No doubt a lively bit of politico-religious agitation serves to varnish over the neglect of positive religious work, and political excitement is useful in whipping up and banding together the disorganised ranks of the denomination. It is almost needless to say that the politics in this case are always Radical. As measured by the number of Unitarians in Parliament, the political influence of the denomination is great beyond all proportion to its numbers, for twenty members of the House of Commons are said to belong to the Unitarian body. The political movements to which the demonination mostly lends itself are naturally of an obstructive or destructive character. It was for the purpose of obstructing the beneficial operation of the Education Act that the late disreputable Birmingham League was for several years supported by Unitarian money and Unitarian oratory. The Liberation Society, too, finds in the Unitarian ranks no little support in aid of its projects of destruction. It is, however, eminently gratifying to know that this anti-Christian sect is making practically no progress. In an official report issued a few weeks ago by the Unitarian Association it is stated that "only about one half of our "Unitarian congregations are entirely self-"supporting."

Notwithstanding all the fine talk that is heard in Unitarian circles about freedom of opinion, there is little real freedom. One of the ablest ministers of the denomination was a few years ago driven from his pulpit for refusing to admit an infidel preacher into it. In another case, which occurred a few years ago, and with which a hundred of the Unitarians who have assembled this week in Birmingham are well acquainted, when an important Unitarian pulpit became vacant, and the majority of the congregation desired a certain preacher for their minister, their wishes were frustrated by a wealthy and unscrupulous politician belonging to the chapel, who was determined to have for the new minister a violent Radical preacher who would be useful in forwarding his political projects. Accordingly, by a judicious expenditure of money, he created a number of fagot-voters amongst the work-people at his manufactory hard by, the payment of a trifling subscription being the only qualification for membership of the congregation and for a vote; and, when the day of election came, these newly-created fagot-voters, acting in obedience to the orders of their employer, completely swamped the votes of the real congregation, and foisted the Radical agitator into the pulpit, where he has ever since proved himself a useful ally to his patron. The manufacturer who executed this manœuvre has since distinguished himself by other pieces of political jobbery of more public interest. Everything, in fact, goes to show that Unitarianism, as a denomination having a positive religious creed (however defective), has ceased to exist. It is now nothing but an adjunct of the Liberation Society—a mere branch of the Caucus.

It is understood that the remarkable article on "The Age of Progress" in the new number of the *Quarterly Review* is from the pen of Sir Henry Maine, who was also the author of the able paper on "The Nature of Democracy," which appeared in the number of the *Quarterly* for October of last year.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* has been reading a severe lecture to the Bishops and clergy of the Church for having neglected to impress upon their countrymen the duty of carefully and impartially judging the important questions now at stake, uninfluenced by popular excitement or national animosity. There might be some ground for censure of this kind if there appeared the slightest danger of the English people being led astray by anything like excitement

or animosity into forming unjust conclusions on the matters now at issue. We must own that we have not observed anything of the kind. The danger seems, in fact, to lie all the other way. At a time when one leading English journal has sold itself body and soul to the enemies of the country, and another widely-circulated print is devoted to the dissemination of Yankee Revolutionary poison, Englishmen need most to be put upon their guard against the intrigues of the artful and unprincipled wirepullers who, in the name of "justice" and "fairplay," are seeking to undermine the welfare of the Empire.

A correspondent, evidently a clergyman, writes to a contemporary that an aged woman upon whom he had urged the duty of receiving Holy Communion has respectfully but firmly refused to do so upon grounds which deserve to be noted. It appears that, after having been for years a regular communicant, she became acquainted with a number of tracts written by the Bishop of Liverpool, Dr. Ryle, and that, upon finding that they contained not one single reference to Holy Communion, or to the necessity for receiving that Sacrament, she thereupon ceased to be a communicant. "The woman states that it cannot be a 'saving ordinance,' since the Bishop has not thought fit to refer to it in any of his sermons or tracts." Now we shall not be so unjust to Dr. Ryle as to judge of his real opinions by the impression formed of them by an uneducated person who is doubtless not acquainted with more than a limited portion of his writings. Still, after making every allowance, there does seem some ground for drawing the conclusion that the Bishop's teaching is more or less defective on a point where the Church's teaching is exceedingly definite and precise. We recently had occasion to make a similar observation in reference to another matter, and Churchmen will not fail to remark that the one Bishop who is engaged in harrying a faithful clergyman of his diocese on account of ceremonial usages intended to promote reverence for the Sacrament of our Redemption is also the very one whose own doctrine seems conspicuously to fall short of the Catholic Faith on that all-important subject.

There seems to be some misunderstanding as to a statement recently made by the Archbishop of Canterbury in a letter addressed to the Metropolitan of the Province of South Africa. Amongst the indispensable conditions which his Grace appears to have laid down for the maintenance of intercommunion between the Church in England and the Church in South Africa is included the proviso that the consecration of all South African Bishops must take place in England. The words which seem to bear this interpretation are as follows:—"To my mind it is totally impossible to conceive that any Church is united in communion with the Church of England if you are not, you and your Bishops, consecrated here." We refrain for the present from offering any comment upon a proposition, which, taken as it stands, and without explanation, would seem to embody an idea of Catholic communion utterly unknown to the Church of this or of any age.

We do not remember ever to have met with a more extraordinary utterance than that of the Bishop of Nelson on the subject of marriage with a deceased wife's sister. Mr. Murray, whose telling letter to the *Times* upon the subject we reprint elsewhere, had little difficulty in exposing the grossness of the Bishop's mis-statements. Nothing more on that point need be said. But we think it absolutely necessary that some further steps should be promptly taken by those holding authority in the Church to condemn in the strongest and most decisive manner the bold Erastianism of a Prelate who, on an important question of Christian morals, makes the plain teaching of Holy Scripture and the explicit commandment of the Church subordinate to the decisions of a Colonial Legislature. We hope that the clergy and laity of the diocese of Nelson will act as becomes the occasion, and that in doing so they will receive the full and firm support of the rest of the Province.

A military correspondent writes to us from the camp at Hafir:—"Why do you still tamely submit to this Government? Please explain." We can only say that we would if we could. Our correspondent asks a question which is not only exercising the minds of many at the present day, but which will certainly supply posterity with an endless source of puzzle and speculation. In ages to come, the question "Why did England tolerate Gladstone?" will take its place among unsolved and insoluble historical problems, wrapped in a mystery as profound as that which belongs to the authorship of the Letters of Junius, or to the identity of the Man with the Iron Mask.

Reviews.

LEONARDO DA VINCI.*

The splendid volume for which we are indebted to M. Ravaisson-Mollien is one of those works, few and far between, which do not depend for their success on laudatory and high-sounding criticism. It has made its way into genuine popularity by its own merits, and in offering our testimony, however humble, to its extreme value, we are merely confirming the universal verdict of the periodical press, both here and abroad. When we say *universal*, we are guilty of a slight error, for, if the *Journal des Savants*, the *Times*, the *Journal des Debats*, and the *Nuova Anthologia* have recognised the importance of M. Ravaisson-Mollien's labours, one German critic, Herr Richter, has struck a discordant note, and raised what our French neighbours call *une querelle d'allemand*, respecting two or three errors which he magnifies into blunders of the greatest magnitude. It is no use dwelling on this disagreeable matter, which has been long since treated as it deserved, and we shall pass on at once to examine the contents of the volume before us.

It is well known that Leonardo da Vinci was little short of a universal genius; painting, sculpture, architecture, natural philosophy, military science—there was hardly a subject, a branch of human knowledge, which he did not touch, and upon which he did not throw a considerable amount of new light. A scheme was formed some time ago to publish in their entirety all the MSS. left by him, and the honour of carrying out so arduous and so difficult an undertaking belongs to M. Ravaisson-Mollien, one [of the most distinguished members of a family many of whom have won their way to fame as historians, philosophers, and critics. It is almost impossible to give by a mere description, however accurate, an idea of this magnificent folio. It contains in parallel pages a photographic fac-simile of the text, together with a transcript and a literal version, notes, preface, tables, &c. The volume we are now noticing is the second of the series. The first reproduced the Codex A; this gives us the MSS. B and D, belonging, like the former one, to the library of the French Institute in Paris.

It will be best perhaps to quote here M. Ravaisson-Mollien's succinct summary of the questions and problems discussed in MS. B; it will show more satisfactorily than any remark of our own could do, the wide grasp of Leonardo da Vinci's mind, the amazing variety of his attainments, and the importance of his works:—

> We may notice passages referring to the spiritual world, to ethics, drawing, music, hydraulics, and inventions of the most extraordinary nature; he had made a deep study of mechanics, and of geometry; it is with a wonderful connectedness that he discourses about architecture, civil engineering, construction, such as churches, palaces, high roads, kitchens, chimneys, &c.; not merely from the artistic point of view, for the embellishment of Milan, its streets, and its edifices, but also for the perfect arrangement of the minutest details. Then again for war, he goes into particulars on the organisation of armies, weapons, fortifications, &c., not merely to know what were the systems in use amongst the ancients, but also to point out the various improvements which might be introduced.

The reader will observe, as he turns over this volume, a large number of notes on aërial locomotion, and on the possibility of enabling man to fly. This subject appears to have been one to which Leonardo da Vinci had devoted his special attention, and after studying closely the anatomy of the winged creation, he did not believe that there was any real impossibility that man should travel through the air. M. Ravaisson-Mollien comes to the conclusion that the question is, at all events, worth examining, and that the researches of the Italian genius may put philosophers on the right track.

The MS. B had been already investigated with great attention by several specialists, who had found in it a number of hints bearing upon their respective investigations. Pearl-fishing in the Indian Archipelago, a supposed steam-gun ascribed by Leonardo to Archimedes, Greek fire, the question whether by means of the compression of the air disembodied spirits can live in this world, a plan for the building of the Church of St. Peter at Rome—such are a few amongst the numerous topics we might name as discussed here with more or less detail. Everybody knows that Leonardo is thought to have travelled in the East; the MS. B will, perhaps, enable critics to determine this point, as also to settle a few particulars about the artist's biography. It seems evidently to belong to the epoch when he was in the service of Lodovico Sforza, for he names the Duke and Duchess of Milan in connection with works he was planning on their behalf and for the benefit of the city. Once he alludes to a certain Marchesino, evidently Domino Marchesino Stange, secretary of Lodovico, to whom the Duke addressed a letter dated June 30, 1497, which has been published by Herr Richter.

We come now to MS. D, which at a first glance will seem perhaps of an almost exclusively scientific character. But we must bear in mind that the fundamental laws of painting rest upon those of perspective, and Da Vinci, always fond of tracing to its origin any subject he wished to make himself acquainted with, thought that a study of the organ of sight was the necessary introduction to the science of optics, and consequently to that of perspective, without which no true art is possible. As a matter of fact, we have here the introduction to Da Vinci's treatise of painting, a new edition of which was published three years ago in Germany by Heinrich Ludwig. Our MS. B contains several passages referring to the proportions of the human body and to the preparation of colours. Some of the sketches drawn to illustrate MS. D can compare favourably in point of elegance, spirit, and finish with the master's best drawings.

M. Ravaisson-Mollien has bestowed special pains upon the accurate printing of the text; in a work like the present *errata* are inevitable, and our wonder is that the typographical blunders are not more numerous. The deciphering of the MSS. must have also been a most laborious and difficult task, and in many instances the reading is a matter of conjecture. However, the extreme value of Leonardo da Vinci's remarks amply justifies all the pains bestowed upon the present publication, which does infinite credit to all concerned in it—publisher, printer, and photographer. Thanks to the honourable rivalry and scholarly enthusiasm of English, German, and French *savants*, we shall soon possess a complete edition of the great Italian artist's works as far as they have been preserved to us.

Les Manuscrits de Léonard de Vinci. MSS. B et D de la Bibliothèque de l'Institut, publiés en fac-simile, avec Transcription Littérale, Traduction Française, Préface et Table Méthodique. Par M. Charles Ravaisson-Mollien. Fo.—Paris: Quantin.

SOME REVIEWS AND MAGAZINES.

The *Quarterly Review* opens with a masterly article entitled "The Age of Progress," with which we have dealt at length in our leading columns. The writer maintains that the present passion for political change, so far from being a permanent phenomenon of human nature, is due to exceptional causes. Another important political article, "The Government and Parliament," points out that in the division on the late Vote of Censure in the House of Lords, when the Government mustered only seventy adherents, forty-five of this number were Ministers or Peers lately created or decorated by Mr. Gladstone This vote means that in an assembly reflecting the judgment of the upper and upper middle ranks of society the Government could only obtain about twenty independent supporters. Yet in the Commons, eliminating the Parnellites, the Government had a majority of over fifty. Such a result is due to the power of One Man Government. Mr. Gladstone retains office in spite of the storm of wrath and sorrow, shame and disgust, called forth by the tidings of the fall of Khartoum and the death of Gordon. Such a want of understanding between the Commons and the country "paralyses the control "of Parliament and renders the machinery of "the Constitution unworkable." The Reviewer tells once more the sickening story of the Too Late policy through its several developments in Egypt, and exposes the real bearings of the Financial Convention. He contrasts the position of England as Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury left her five years ago, with the perilous situation she is in now, aggravated as it is by the national insecurity arising from the inefficiency of the Navy. The Reviewer may well ask why such a Ministry is maintained in office. The answer to that question is not creditable to the British people or to the British House of Commons. "General Gordon's Life and "Letters" is an article which will be read with the greatest interest. The writer has enjoyed the advantage of perusing a mass of Gordon's unpublished correspondence, extending over the last eight years. The paper on "The Present and Near "Future of Ireland" takes, on the whole, a hopeful view. It advocates firm dealing with the Separatists in Parliament, the reintroducing of at least part of the Crimes' Prevention Act, and the providing of some antidote for the nauseous literature and speeches of the Separatists. The article on "England and her Colonies" will be read with special interest in connection with Lord Derby's new Bill, which treats the whole subject most comprehensively and satisfactorily—discussing the commercial value of the colonies to England, the advantages of emigration, the capabilities of the Colonies for taking part in the defence of the Empire, the intricate question of Colonial tariffs and a commercial union between the Colonies and the mother country (which the writer thinks impracticable), and lastly Imperial Federation. "The Early History of Britain" is one of the best articles in the number. The other papers treat of "Recent Discoveries in Greece," "The Pioneers "and Prospects of English Agriculture," "Bishop "Temple's Bampton Lectures," and "Modern "Geneva."

There is nothing in the present political situation to induce a good Liberal to say more about politics than he can help, and the *Edinburgh* prudently abstains as much as possible from treading on ground which is best avoided. It condenses all its observations on politics in general into a single article headed the "Three Reform Bills," in which an attempt is made to minimise the effects of the revolutionary measure now soon to become law. In discussing the probable views of the new democracy, the Reviewer, we observe, censures the "crude opinions" of Mr. Chamberlain on the Land question. He seems, too, to have more than a suspicion of a future combination between "the coming Liberal leaders" and the Parnellite party. In an important paper on "The Army of India," the writer calls attention to the cumbersome nature of the Indian military system. It includes four separate armies, each furnished with its own staff and departments—a most inconvenient and extravagant plan. In these days of railways and telegraphs the Army should be administered from one centre. Yet the Home Government continues to oppose this much-needed reform. Other necessary measures are the raising of the strength of the regiments, which are far too small, and the adoption of a reserve system. Our Eastern Empire furnishes the topic of another article, dealing, however, with a very different subject from the last—"India: "What can it teach us?"—in which are noticed the opinions of Canon Cook and Professor Max Müller on the origins of religion and language, and especially the absurdly exaggerated view taken by the latter writer of the importance to us Europeans of Indian literature as a "corrective" of what we have learnt from "the thoughts "of Greeks and Romans, and of one Semitic "race, the Jewish." The greater part of the article is devoted to a description of Vedism. The account of the "Past and Present "Condition of the Navy" is chiefly remarkable for the confident statement of the writer that "our fleet is not in the dangerously reduced "condition which has been alleged," and the consoling thought that "the alarm has really "sprung from ignorance and misrepresentation." We like this gentleman; he is so delightfully bold in his flat contradiction of all our most eminent naval men (outside Whitehall), and is altogether such a superior person, that he must surely be none other than Sir Thomas Brassey himself. But, for all that, we question whether his views will outweigh the important declarations as to the state of the Navy made at the great City meeting on Thursday. A very able paper on "Land Tenure in Scotland" traces the history of the subject from the earliest period. The Reviewer denies that the poorer classes in the Highlands anciently enjoyed any special rights of occupancy, the chiefs being absolute. The feudal system brought under legal control the arbitrary customs that had obtained in barbarous times, and two hundred years ago the law again interfered to check the arbitrary exactions founded on Celtic usages. Fixed rents and dues replaced these indefinite exactions. The security of a long lease and improvement in agriculture were a great benefit to the tenants, and the great improvers everywhere were the proprietors of land. We note that most of the illustrative facts cited in the article bear reference to the Argyll estates. There is one other paper specially deserving of mention, "Prince "Bismarck sketched by his Secretary;" but the party allegiance of the *Edinburgh* obliges it to administer a good scolding to the German Chancellor for being out of temper with good Mr. Gladstone.

Blackwood is a fair number. There is a new novel called "Fortune's Wheel," and a further instalment of "The Waters of Hercules," which maintains the improvement on the earlier parts. "The Soldier of Fortune" is an account of the adventures of Francesco Di Carmagnola, a *condottiero* of the fifteenth century, who finally perished by the jealousy of the Venetian Senate, after rising to the command of its forces and the enjoyment of the highest honours. The "Pictures "of Richard Doyle" and the "Reminiscences of Sir "Herbert Stewart" are well-deserved memorials of men each of distinguished merit in their different careers and alike cut off in their prime. We cannot say much for "Musings without Method." The political articles recount the too familiar tale of Mr. Gladstone's disastrous failures with Russia, and at Khartoum.

The new primrose-coloured wrapper in which for the future the *National Review* is to be issued makes its first appearance appropriately this month. The short opening article compares the state of affairs in 1853 and 1885, and shows that as Russia is the same now as she was then, so Lord Aberdeen's Chancellor of the Exchequer—the present Prime Minister—is the same now as he was then. He is just as determined as he was thirty-two years ago "to have peace for the "moment at any price." Knowing that Russia has invaded the territories of an ally whose dominions we are bound in honour to defend, Mr. Gladstone "has feebly suggested to her that "it would be advisable to withdraw from them, "pending negotiations." Russia has declined to do this, and the Prime Minister humbly acquiesces, and asks for an "arrangement" that there shall be no further advance. That was the state of things at the opening of the present month. Now it is even worse. The difference between 1853 and 1885 seems to lie in the contrast the Englishmen of to-day present to those of the last generation. In 1853 Parliament was free: to-day it exhibits an abject servility to the despot elected in 1880. The Englishmen of 1885 are wanting in *manliness*. That is the plain though disagreeable truth. The "Letter from Ruricola" this month discusses the objects upon which a rich man should spend his wealth. We are rather tired of articles on the New Radicalism—a subject with which we are getting only too unpleasantly familiar by experience, and Mr. Percy Greg has little that is new to tell us about it. Nor are we much better pleased with the views of "An Imperialist" on the future of the Conservative Party, who expresses his warm admiration of Mr. G. C. Bartley's ridiculous letter which appeared in the daily papers a few weeks ago. We have no patience with men who are always visiting on their Leaders shortcomings really due to the reprehensible apathy of a vast proportion of the rank and file of the Party. The Honourable Harold Finch-Hatton criticises Lord Bury's views on Imperial Federation; and two replies, by a Liberal and a Conservative writer respectively, are made to Sir Charles Gavan Duffy's recent article on the relation of the Conservative Party to Home Rule. We note with pleasure that the Liberal champion mentions the existence of Irish Roman Catholic Loyalists; but we should have been even more gratified to be informed who they are, and where they are to be found. It may be admitted, however, that the reception of the Prince and Princess of Wales in Ireland has done something to establish the fact of their existence. Mr. L. F. Dibdin severely, but not too severely, animadverts upon the report of the London Livery Companies Commission. We entirely concur in his view that the assailants of the City Companies are aiming a blow at property generally. Mr. C. E. Dawkins opportunely explains the bearings and results of the present movement in Germany towards colonial expansion; and Mr. Courthope sends another of his admirable and scholarly papers on the Liberal movement in English literature, dealing this month with the "Revival "of Romance" in Scott, Byron, and Shelley. There are several other articles and some interesting correspondence; among the latter being two more English renderings of "Hadrian's Address "to his Soul," contributed respectively by Mr. Edwin Arnold and Mr. R. W. Wintle.

The *Contemporary* has a "Comment on Christ-"mas," by Mr. Matthew Arnold, a gentleman of undoubted abilities, but by no means so clever as he thinks himself. He has learned that Christmas "is the birthday of Jesus," and that Easter celebrates Him "victorious over death by dying." There he parts with his knowledge and the Gospels from which it is obtained; all the rest is mere impertinence. To tell us that Jesus died to re-live, *not* in Paradise, not in another world, but in this; that the Kingdom of God is the ideal society of the future; that immortality is to live in the eternal order that never dies, and is attained through the method and the secret and the temper of Jesus. This is something more than impertinence: it is a flat contradiction to the Saviour's own dying words, and an impudent travesty on all that He taught. When a man pretends to know the Lord's "method and secret and temper" better than He knew them Himself, it is no wonder that he is fool enough not to see with St. Paul that, "if in this "life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all "men most miserable." Sir J. Goldsmid, like Sir H. Rawlinson, may spare his pains on "Russia and "the Afghan Frontier." Sir John Lubbock and Captain Cameron write about "England and the "Soudan" to as little purpose. We have no policy and no statesmanship anywhere. At another time it would be pleasant to discuss with Professor Dowden "Shakespeare's Portraiture of "Women," or to follow Mr. Vincent in the byeways of "Contemporary Life and Thought of "Greece," but the hour is too dark.

The *Nineteenth Century* opens with an article by Sir Henry Rawlinson on the "Russian Advance "in Central Asia" (with a map), which we have already noticed at length, and which would be of the deepest importance, if there were the slightest hope of any honourable policy under the present Cabinet. But the most absolute demonstration comes "too late" with a purposeless House of Commons in the hands of a Premier who has never been known to face an enemy strong enough to threaten. India will be betrayed on the Afghan frontier as Gordon was in Khartoum. The shadow of this impending calamity so darkens all periodical literature that we have no heart to review it; otherwise, some of the other papers, notably Mr. Goschen's significant retrospect, "Since 1880," would be well worth notice. The country has indeed gone far and fared worse since it lost Lord Beaconsfield.

Macmillan continues Mrs. Ritchie's novel, "Mrs. Dymond." "A March in Magna Græcia" is pleasantly described by Mrs. (or Miss) Janet Ross. Professor Freeman treats of "Imperial "Federation." Mr. John Morley reviews the Memoirs of that very highly-educated and disagreeable person Mr. Mark Pattison, and Mr. Cook furnishes a curious paper on "The Astrology "of Shakespeare." This is a very goodly bill of fare; the Review of the Month, with the best intentions, can discover no extenuation for the miserable mismanagement of the Gladstone Cabinet.

The *Army and Navy Magazine* is of special importance this month. Professor A. Vambéry contributes a valuable article on the Russo-Afghan Boundary question. He advocates a permanent British occupation of Herat, and declares that the Heratis and other non-Afghan peoples are most favourably disposed towards the English; that they would make valuable auxiliaries and faithful friends; and that they could furnish a militia, including a fine irregular cavalry, well worthy to counterbalance the Russo-Turcoman regiments. Professor Vambéry entirely distrusts either the ability or the willingness of the Ameer Abdur Rahman to support England against Russia, and he disbelieves in the likelihood of the Afghan nation as a whole coming forward to resist Russian encroachment. Another paper on the same important subject is from the pen of "An Old "Punjabee." It was written before the latest move of Russia was made, and deals with the causes which led to our last rupture with Afghanistan, reserving for a future occasion a discussion on the present position of the question. It may be doubted, however, whether before another month has elapsed that position may not have given way to one in which predictions and warnings will no longer be of any avail. Among the other articles is an appreciative review of Skobeleff's career as a soldier, and another instalment of Colonel Malleson's "Ambushes and Surprises," describing the Prussian surrender of Maxen to the Austrians in 1759.

In the *Antiquary* Mr. G. L. Gomme's series of papers on "Rebellions in English History" deals this month with Jack Cade, who seems to have been instigated by the party of Richard, Duke of York. Cade's well-known action at London Stone was no piece of meaningless nonsense. It was highly significant, and it is evident that there was an ancient London tradition of a close connection between the Stone and the lordship of the City. The incident appears to indicate the survival of an archaic Aryan custom. Mr. W. G. Black argues that cannibalism is seldom or never found as a tribal feature, save as associated with the religious rite of sacrifice. The negro Vaudoux worshippers in Hayti still practise human sacrifices. In 1869 a French priest witnessed a ghastly scene of the sacrifice of "the goat without horns," that is to say a child, who was killed and eaten. The President of the Republic was at this time himself a Vaudoux worshipper. There are several other good articles.

In the American *Church Eclectic* Dr. Staunton's article on "The Church Militant" strikes us as good, though jerky in style and marvellously disfigured by italics. The Rev. O. Owen's article on "The Attraction of the Church for the Society of "Friends" is very striking and thoughtful, and is well deserving of the attention which it will doubtless attract in America, and especially in "the "Quaker City" of Philadelphia.

We ought to have mentioned that the very interesting *Letters from Khartoum*, by the late Mr. Frank Power, from which we made copious extracts last week, have been published in a pamphlet form by Messrs. Sampson Low and Co., and have already attained a very large circulation. The little book is certainly one which should not be overlooked by any of those who take an interest in the great tragedy of Gordon's sacrifice.

Correspondence.

MARK PATTISON'S *MEMOIRS*.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—In your review of Pattison's *Memoirs* you have forgotten to call special attention to the fact that, as he himself puts it, he had passed to "that highest development, when all religions appear in their historical light, as efforts of the human spirit to come to an understanding with that Unseen Power whose pressure it feels, but whose motives are a riddle"—pure agnosticism.

You have also overlooked the coarse and unjustifiable language in which he wrote of his successful rival for the Headship of Lincoln. Pattison styled that clergyman "a satyr." His other epithets for other people were equally foul and disgraceful.

The misery and wretchedness of this vain and self-conscious individual's life, after he had rejected the Christian Religion, are the leading feature of his most depressing *Memoirs*.

Let me add, that a moderate but experienced Lincoln authority informed me that, as a Head, Pattison was a most deplorable failure. Of my own knowledge I could readily fortify this opinion.

Until his death—notwithstanding his want of faith in Christianity—he still continued to celebrate the Holy Communion in the College Chapel, to the unspeakable disgust of several of his colleagues, and of the late Episcopal Visitor.

This was done apparently on the same principle upon which another Oxford Head—whose unbelief at one time seemed not unlikely to frighten "Pater-familias" and "Materfamilias," and so to lose pupils and undergraduates—gets himself placed in the pulpits of Westminster Abbey and a church in Bishopsgate, from time to time, so as, by nebulous twaddle in semi-Christian phraseology, to calm and satisfy those who may be at all troubled on the score of religion. Such is the new, improved, and very superfine morality of God-forsaken Oxford.

Yours truly,
April 13. OXONIENSIS MŒRENS.

THE E.C.U.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—As one of those who fully admit that there is grave justification for the discontent with the weak and crooked policy of the E.C.U., which is so often expressed by High Churchmen, but who think it right to remain members of the Union, I should be glad to offer some defence of this course. It is quite true that the callow cuckoos of "disabled Protestantism" seem to be shouldering people of Catholic principles out of their own nest. Or shall I change the metaphor, and say that the Broad Church Ritualists, adorned with *our* feathers, have half persuaded themselves and the public that they are not Martin Luther's daws after all? A new firm is trading under the old name. The neo-Anglicans have long had an influence in the affairs of the E.C.U., which has almost made it appear as though that body had been expressly organised for the purpose of holding the hands of the Church while Mr. Gladstone set upon it. The secularisation of sacred endowments, the "nationalisation" of the churchyards, the expulsion of corporate religion from the ancient seats of learning and education, the many slights which the Liberal party has put upon the Catholic faith in England, the great advance which has been made in one generation towards the final severance of man's law and God's law, of government and religion, have no doubt been effected with the connivance of those who are good enough to act as as our leaders. All this may be urged. On the other hand, are there not signs that a policy of ecclesiastical complaisance is receiving a check? From the opportunities one has in this place of observing the tendencies of the younger men, I should say that those who now seek the priesthood are far less infected with the Gladstonite and quasi-Rationalist spirit than the post-Tractarian generation, which patched up compromise between the already fading principles of the Catholic reaction and the victorious spirit of the age. I believe it is being understood more and more that that compromise, however well intended, was an impossible one, and that in England as in every other European country men must now range themselves either on the side of the Church or beneath that banner, crowned with so many earthly laurels, which men have agreed to inscribe with the name "Liberal."

The bubble of pietistic latitudinarianism must burst so soon as a few prominent names amongst us are gone. Meanwhile, I conceive that the right course for High Churchmen to take is to remain in the only organisation which is a fact and a power. To replace the E.C.U. is impracticable. After all, the Liberal element in the Council has been exaggerated. There are one or two vehement partisans of Mr. Gladstone on the list, and though these have in the past succeeded in paralysing the resistance of the Union to the anti-Christian legislation of Parliament under the sophistry (which has cost the Church so much) that the E.C.U. has no concern with politics, they have now probably done their worst. It is sometimes supposed that Dr. Liddon's sympathies are Liberal. Here in Oxford at any rate it is hard to say which could be most vexed by the idea, Dr. Liddon or the Liberal party. There is abundant evidence that the temporary entanglement with Liberalism in respect of the Eastern question, which diminished Dr. Liddon's influence with many Churchmen, is a thing entirely of the past, and that he and Mr. Gladstone have been for many years falling more and more apart.

However unsatisfactory the working of the E.C.U. may have been, it remains true that without its machinery, humanly speaking, we should never have wrung the Commission on Ecclesiastical Courts from the Government. This is surely a great achievement. The "High Church" Protestants, like their Puritan ancestors, hold one valuable truth, at any rate—namely, the essentially Divine nature of Christ's Kingdom, even if they seem to deny its prerogatives and authority.

I am, your most obedient servant,
Oxford. A PUSEYITE.

RITUALISTIC DEVELOPMENTS.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—Your remarks regarding *Plain Reasons* were very sound and timely.

How hypocritical it is for influential High Churchmen to be privately grumbling at its author's disastrous policy, and yet to be found publicly in active co-operation with him. I have before me three independent letters full of criticisms of this dangerous and destructive book, in which one writer—a learned Canon—writes: "If Dr. Littledale's method were applied to the doctrines of the Trinity, Divinity of Christ, and Atonement, short work would be made of those doctrines. Dr. Littledale is always destroying: he cannot construct."

This Ritualistic "school of thought" is now still further developing. *E.g.*, in the *Church Reformer* of April 15, 1885, one account of the recent Mission is given in which Christianity is held up to scorn. The writer has evidently gone over to Mr. Bradlaugh's "school of thought." This is what he has penned:—

"Missioners bring the praises of sanguinary fountains and fluids through every street, and blare texts upon hoardings, and nightly upon gas-jets."

Again:—"The Ritualist churches were well attended; and many babies were baptised, and much cradle-grease consumed."

In this point we see that all true religion is sneered at and caricatured, the so-called "Religion of Humanity"—whatever that may be—being recommended in its stead.

I wish people would open their eyes to the dangers created and intensified by those who are perpetually criticising the Roman Catholic Church, abusing and maligning the Church of England, and adopting the idiotic verbiage and insane theories of William Morris, Henry George, and other dangerous fanatics—in the foolish hope of thereby winning the "working man." This last-named personage wants teaching and keeping in order, not inciting to envy, hatred, and all uncharitableness.

Yours truly,
AN OLD-FASHIONED ONLOOKER.
April 16.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

NEW ACROSTIC RULES.

In future, instead of the Quarterly Prize, a Prize of One Guinea will be given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

The present monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on April 4, 11, 18, and 25.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competition so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the ACROSTIC EDITOR of *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 1.
(SECOND MONTH, TENTH YEAR.)

1. W it H
2. H erati O
3. I U
4. T uilerie S
5. E ntir E

Answers have been received from Bertha, G.C.H., Paddy, Two Countesses, Spero, Iris, Todcat, James Crow, Pegasus, Waddles, Conjecture, Roslyn, Etak, Work, Chelmsford, S.M.F., M.A.E.B., Hampton Courtier, Rad, Peewit, Felix, Asphodel, Magnet, Persevere, Beam, Sociable, Quill Pen, Hadji, Noremac, Sarnia, Pen, and Viz.

FIRST MONTHLY LIST.

1. G.C.H., Ketha, Lux, Burleigh, Sarnia, Etak, Iris, Waddles, Two Countesses, Sleepy, Cymro, Cave Lupum, and Mac.
2. S.O.F., Spero, Land o' Nod, Hadji, Conjecture, Zulus, Kildale, The Owl, and Pansy.
3. Sociable, Viz, and Pegasus.
4. Roma, Felix, Hampton Courtier, Peewit, and M.A.E.B.
5. Todcat, Persevere, Zyx, and Beam.

Thus TODCAT, PERSEVERE, ZYX, and BEAM have tied for the Monthly Prize.

ZYX has failed to furnish a correct solution of Acrostic 1, Second Month, so that Todcat, Persevere, and Beam remain contesting the ties. If at the end of the present monthly competition no definite success is secured by any one competitor, a Special Acrostic will be given to decide the ties.

PERSEVERE.—Your solution to light 5, Acrostic 5, has been carefully considered and cannot be accepted.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 3.
(SECOND MONTH, TENTH YEAR.)

PROEM.

Though I reach you from the past,
Don't accept me for my last.
When my second's work is done,
Many an action has been won.

1.
A paradox it seems; but still
I'll surely flourish if I'm ill.

2.
"High o'er the sea surge and the sands
Thy castle stands
A mouldering landmark of the past."

3.
A noble poet bid these matrons weep
And rend their hair—and show their sorrow deep.

4.
"Lovely as *this* night,
An old age serene and bright."

MARS.

LITERARY AND OTHER NOTES.

Our correspondent the Rev. J. E. Rudd, rector of Covenham St. Mary, writes:—

"The ensuing month of May wears a wet, cold, and stormy aspect.

Mai kühl und nass
Füllt Scheur und Fass.
A wet May and a winnie
Makes a fou stacky and a finnie.
A windy May makes a fair year.

The first ten days will be wet, cold, and stormy; between the 10th and 24th the weather will be changeable, and at intervals stormy, and during the last week stormy wind and boisterous weather will prevail. The 3rd, 7th, 13th, 20th, and 22nd are likely to be exceptionally cold, wet, and stormy."

Mr. Henry Irving, Miss Ellen Terry, and other members of the Lyceum company arrived at Queenstown Harbour on Wednesday, and proceeded to Liverpool.

The *Englishman* says that an interesting historical discovery has just been made in Calcutta, nothing less than the site of a monument erected to Holwell, the survivor of the Black Hole. Major Biggwither made an excavation which resulted in the finding of a platform of Holwell's monument, beneath which the victim of the Black Hole was interred. The spot which has now been identified is at the corner of Tank-square Gardens, just opposite the General Post Office.

A large map of Egypt and the Soudan, printed in colours, will, we hear, be issued with Part I. of *Egypt: Descriptive, Historical, and Picturesque*, to be published by Messrs. Cassell and Co. on the 27th inst. This map has been constructed by Mr. F. Weller, F.R.G.S., from the latest authorities, including the Admiralty and War Office charts and maps, and also from private information, special attention being given to the districts which are at present the scene of British military operations.

Mr. H. M. Stanley's new book will be ready in about a fortnight. The events connected with the Congo and its basin are narrated in detail from the explorations of the river in 1877 down to the recognition of the Free State by the Powers, together with a description of the physical features of the region, boundaries, natural productions, and populations. An account of the Berlin Conference is also given. Two chapters describe the climate of the Congo—one for popular reading, and the second with comments on the meteorological observations taken by the party. Amongst the maps, which are numerous, is a large-scale map of Equatorial Africa, the stations all being fixed astronomically, and not, as hitherto, located at random. About 130 illustrations, mostly from photographs, will accompany the text. A unique design has been made for the cover. It depicts the goddess Ethiopia crowning a bust of King Leopold at Stanley Pool.

Some two or three years ago a party of ladies and gentlemen met together and determined that it would be an excellent thing to commence excavations in Lower Egypt. With this object in view a Committee was formed, a President was appointed, and the Egypt Exploration Fund came into being. The promoters of the Fund made a happy choice in their President, for Erasmus Wilson was not only a man of deep sympathies with Egyptological research, but also wealthy, and his appreciation of the remains of Egypt the ancient was evinced by the magnificent gift of Cleopatra's Needle to this country and by liberal donations to the Egypt Exploration Fund. The Committee of the Fund then looked out for an Egyptologist who would excavate for them, and they were fortunate enough to obtain the services of the brilliant and accomplished Egyptian scholar, M. Naville. This gentleman commenced his excavations in the eastern delta of the Nile at Tell-el-Maskhutah, and before long the scientific and religious world was astonished with the news that the Pithom of the Exodus had been discovered. This was in the spring of 1883, yet it is only now, in the beginning of 1885, that anything like a full official account of the discovery has been put forward. Why this long delay in laying the results of the excavations before the subscribers to the "Fund" and scholars generally? It is true that letters from one of the honorary secretaries have appeared in a contemporary on the subject of Pithom, but what the world asked for was facts and not assertions. Now, however, M. Naville has relieved our suspense, and the first part of the transactions of the Egypt Exploration Fund is issued. The work has caused some disappointment. The world expected to find the proofs that the town which M. Naville has discovered was really Pithom; but there is very little in the volume which has not been printed or said before, and the Pithom of the Exodus is apparently as far to seek as ever. An admirable recapitulation of the arguments for and against this town being Pithom is given in the *Athenæum*.

An event of considerable literary interest is announced to take place to-day (Saturday), when Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson are deputed to sell by auction the original manuscript of "Tam o' Shanter." The constantly increasing number of Burns's admirers will learn with regret that there is a prospect of this interesting relic being secured for the possession of the United States. If this should be so, it will certainly be a reproach to this country generally. In these days very heavy sums are constantly paid for first editions of the standard works of literature, which possess scarcely a tithe of the historic value of autograph manuscripts of a similar character. Even among these last, the one here referred to must be considered to hold a high place. Scotland claims Burns as her greatest poet, and Burns claimed "Tam o' Shanter" as his greatest work. His wife has left on record a touching account of the memorable day which produced it, and her picture of the poet busily engaged "crooning to himself" is familiar to all who read his works. It may be hoped that before Saturday some one of Burns's countrymen will have drawn the attention of the national authorities to the chance which we run of losing what may fairly be called a literary treasure. The British Museum is the natural and fitting home for the conspicuous relics of our great writers. The nation which can spend £70,000 on a picture, even if painted by Raphael, should not hesitate at the cost of a few hundreds to secure the possession of Burns's masterpiece as he himself left it.

Much archæological interest attaches to the discoveries by workmen now engaged in excavations at the French Huguenot Church in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral. Mr. Loftus Brock and other authorities upon such subjects have visited the scene of operations, and also examined the relics, which have now been removed to the deanery. Minute inspection of the remains confirms the idea that they are for the most part fragments of St. Dunstan's shrine. Among the collection is a finely-carved head of the saint in an excellent state of preservation. Some portions of the remains are exact counterparts of the well-known beautiful diaper work on the south side of the presbytery in the Cathedral. A hand of the saint clasping a book has also been discovered, together with a pearl and portions of the dress. Other fragments unearthed are believed to belong to the shrine of Prior Bradwardine which stood in Anselm's Chapel, while several pieces of carving that are totally distinct from the rest may, it is conjectured, have been portions of Becket's shrine. That part of the undercroft of the Cathedral now utilised by the descendants of the French Walloons consisted formerly of the southern aisle of Ernulph's crypt. It was walled up for the separate use of the refugees about the year 1826. At the west end is a fine specimen of a recessing arch which connects Lanfranc's work with that of Ernulph, and towards the east end are the southern and western faces of one of the four large columns erected in 1177 by William of Sens, the architect who was employed for the rebuilding of the edifice after its destruction by fire in 1174. In that part under the transept which may be called the ante-chapel of the French Church is still to be seen the beautiful memorial of the marriage of the Black Prince with his cousin Joan, the Fair Maid of Kent, in 1363. On the ribs of the vaulting are the arms of King Edward III. and also those of the Black Prince himself. Here also is what was an undoubted likeness of his wife. On one of the bosses the pelican in its piety, and very beautifully carved foliage, together with some very elaborate heads, may be seen. On the ceiling of the northern chapel is Samson, with his flowing locks, holding an ass's head. Another very interesting object has been exposed to view in the course of the excavations—namely, the cap and abacus of one of the old monolithic columns which had been embedded in the new masonry at the time of the alterations in 1363.

Few naturalists will be disposed to agree with the recent decision given by Mr. Justice Mathew and Mr. Justice A. L. Smith to the effect that crayfish are fish. It seems that a man named Thwaite had been brought before the magistrates charged with attempting to take fish otherwise than by angling. It appeared, however, from the evidence tendered during the inquiry, that Thwaite had been only attempting to take crayfish; and thereupon the magistrates refused to convict, upon the ground that crayfish are not "fish" within the contemplation of the Act. An appeal against this decision was lodged, and the learned judges we have referred to have held that the magistrates were wrong, and have sent the case back to them with an order to convict. We had been always under the impression that the crayfish was a small lobster, and not a fish at all, and that its name was only a corruption of the French *écrevisse* (just as the dormouse is not a mouse, but a member of the squirrel tribe with a name derived from the French *dormeuse*, or sleeper). Perhaps we were wrong. The whole story reminds us of the railway porter who, in classifying the tortoise, when debating whether he could charge for its carriage by passenger train, said, "Cats is 'dogs,' and parrots is 'dogs;' but this 'ere animal's a blessed inseck!"

The promoters of the Whitechapel Fine Art Exhibition, which was lately opened in Mr. Barnett's schoolrooms, have been fortunate in securing the loan of what are perhaps the masterpieces of two of our best painters. One is Mr. Herkomer's "Last Muster," his picture of the Chelsea pensioners which attracted so much attention at the Paris International Exhibition in 1878; and the other is Sir F. Leighton's "Hercules struggling with Death for the Body of Alcestis," lent by Sir B. Samuelson. Members of the Browning Society in particular ought to be grateful for this opportunity of seeing the canvas in which "the great Kaunian painter, strong almost as Hercules," treats "that sweetest, strangest, saddest song" which Balaustion heard in Kameiros once and saved her life by:—

> And he has made a picture of it all:
> There lies Alcestis dead beneath the sun
> She longed to look her last upon, beside
> The sea, which somehow tempts the life in us
> To come trip over its white waste of waves.

Several other English painters are well represented in the exhibition—Mr. Watts, for instance, and Mr. Brett; and more interesting is the collection of foreign pictures, including several excellent specimens of Israels, which are lent by Mr. J. S. Forbes. This is the fifth year of the exhibition, and Mr. Barnett's experience must clearly have shown him that in art as in music the best is appreciated as much in Whitechapel as anywhere else.

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. G. M. Ashdown, to be Chaplain at Wynnstay Chapel, Ruabon.

Rev. T. Austin, to be Chaplain to the *Agincourt*.

Rev. M. C. Bickersteth, to Vicarage of St. Paul's, Pudsey. Patron, the Bishop of Ripon.

Rev. G. G. Bird, Rector of Wattisfield, Diss, Norfolk, to Vicarage of Hollinwood, Oldham.

Rev. R. H. Bird, to Vicarage of Kingstone-with-Thruxton. Patron, the Bishop of Hereford.

Very Rev. H. B. Bromby, of Jesus College, Cambridge, formerly Dean of Hobart Town, Tasmania, to Vicarage of St. John's, Bethnal-green.

Rev. T. M. Brown, to Rectory of Brandeston, Norfolk.

Rev. J. M. Clarkson, to be Chaplain to the *Inflexible*.

Rev. W. Crossland, to Rectory of Ridlington, Norfolk. Patron, the Earl of Kimberley.

Rev. D. Dickson, to Vicarage of St. Martin-at-Oak, Norwich. Patron, the Bishop of Norwich.

Rev. J. E. Gerrard, to Vicarage of Clayton, Bradford. Patron, the Vicar of Bradford.

Rev. J. Griffiths, to Rectory of Dalby. Patron, Mr. John Walker.

Rev. C. H. Harbord, to be Chaplain to the Bermuda Dockyard.

Rev. S. Henning, to be Perpetual Curate of St. James', Plumstead. Patrons, the Rev. Canon Carus and others.

Rev. E. Jones, Curate of St. Peter's, Carmarthen, to be Perpetual Curate of Llanfihangel, Aberythick, Carmarthenshire. Patron, Earl Cawdor.

Rev. E. E. Jones, to Vicarage of Denton. Patrons, Mr. and Mrs. Wyvill.

Rev. J. C. Lamb, Perpetual Curate of Hipswell. Patron, the Vicar of Catterick.

Rev. G. T. Lermit, late Head Master of the Grammar-school, Dedham, Essex, to Rectory of St Florence, Pembrokeshire. Patrons, St. John's College, Cambridge.

Rev. E. H. K. Long, Rector of Swainsthorpe-with-Newton Flotman, to Vicarage of Dunston, Norfolk. Patron, the Queen.

Rev. E. S. Lowndes, Christ's College, Cambridge, Curate, to Rectory of Little Comberton, Worcestershire. Patrons, the Trustees of the will of the Rev. W. Parker.

Rev. H. Meyer, to be Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers, Bristol Brigade.

Rev. H. R. Rolfe, to Vicarage of St. Michael and All Angels', Derby. Patron, the Bishop of Southwell.

Rev. J. Robinson, Vicar of St. Margaret's, Hollinwood, Oldham, to Rectory of Wattisfield, Diss, Norfolk.

Rev. D. D. Stewart, Rector of Coulsdon, to be Honorary Canon of Rochester Cathedral.

Rev. E. Sullivan, to be Chaplain to the *Revenge*.

Rev. H. Sykes, to Vicarage of Potter Heigham, Norfolk. Patron, the Bishop of Norwich.

Rev. F. N. Thicknesse (Oxon), to be Lecturer in the Parish Church of Bolton. Patrons, the Vicarage of Bolton-le-Moors and the Trustees of the Bolton Lectureship Charity Estate.

Rev. A. S. Valpy, to Rectory of Holy Trinity and St. Mary's, Guildford. Patron, the Lord Chancellor.

Rev. J. M'G. Ward, to be Chaplain to the Royal Marine Depôt, Walmer.

Licence to Curacy by the Bishop of Manchester.—Rev. Robert Haworth, to All Saints', Chorlton-upon-Medlock.

Licences to Curacies by the Bishop of Ripon.—Revs. Edward Auwyl Jones, to Spofforth; Henry Joseph Stevens, B.A., to Chapel Allerton; George Wheelhouse, B.A., to Chapelthorpe; Robert Willan, M.A., to Parish Church, Huddersfield; Charles John Young, to Bierley.

Licence to Curacy by the Bishop of Rochester.—Rev. Charles Girdwood Thompson, B.A., to St. Giles', Camberwell.

Licences to Curacies by the Bishop of St. Asaph.—Revs. Hugh Trevor Hughes, M.A., to Llansilin; John I. Thomas, to Trinity Church, Oswestry.

Licence to Curacy by the Bishop of Salisbury.—Rev. Richard Gellibrand Wood, M.A., to Winterbourne, Stoke.

OBITUARY.

April 4, at 3, Calverley-terrace, Tunbridge Wells, the Rev. John Holmes Joy, M.A., aged 75.

April 4, at 16, Princes-road, Liverpool, the Rev. James Lawrence, M.A., aged 51.

April 6, at St. Luke's Vicarage, Reigate, the Rev. Wm. Hillis, aged 53.

April 6, at San Remo, the Rev. Arthur Russell Baker, aged 33.

April 9, at Upper Bullinghope Vicarage, the Rev. Edward Hansford Daniell, aged 80.

April 9, at Chilton Lodge, Southsea, the Rev. Henry Marshall Foster, B.A., Curate of St. Saviour's, Reading, aged 26.

April 9, at Quendon Rectory, James Marius Tayler, for twenty-one years Rector of the parish

April 10, at the Parsonage, Caldecot, Rutland, the Rev. Roscoe Hawthorn, Rector of Caldecott-cum-Lyddington, aged 44.

April 10, at Great Dunmow, the Rev. Alexander John Rogers, retired Chaplain H.M.I.S., and late Vicar of Lindsell, aged 68.

April 11, at Tanworth Vicarage, the Rev. Alexander Hunter, M.A., aged 77.

April 12, at Ashstead, Surrey, the Rev. William Ranken Calvert Adamson, M.A., Rector of the parish, aged 46.

April 12, at Aughton Rectory, near Ormskirk, the Rev. William Henry Boulton, M.A., for fifty years Rector of the parish, aged 78.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE.

DURHAM.

A Convocation was held in Bishop Cosin's Library on Saturday, for the purpose of making certain alterations in the regulations respecting the degree of Bachelor of Medicine. In the absence of the Warden, Convocation was presided over by the Rev. Professor Pearce, sub-warden. By these alterations every student in medicine must pass the examination of the University in the rudiments of literature and science. A petitioner for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine must be of the standing required for admission to the Licence in Medicine, have fulfilled similar conditions as regards residence, conduct, and attendance on lectures and hospital practice, and have passed three public examinations, at the last of which he must have spent four years at least in medical study. The subjects of the general examination directed to the rudiments of literature and science are:—(*a*) Necessary Subjects—1. English, including Grammar and Composition. 2. English History. 3. Geography. 4. Arithmetic. 5. Latin. (*b*) Optional Subjects—1. Religious Knowledge. 2. Additional Mathematics. 3. Elementary Mechanics. 4. Greek. 5. French. 6. German.

The Rev. W. J. Willan, M.A., late scholar of St. John's College, Cambridge, and second master of Trinity College, Stratford-on-Avon, has been appointed to the head mastership of Guilsborough Grammar-school, Northampton.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

We are glad to learn that the Bishop of Peterborough is recovering from his recent illness.

The Bishop-elect of Lincoln has signified his intention of residing in his Cathedral city for the present, and wishes to do so permanently if Riseholme can be sold and a suitable residence erected on the ground of the old palace under the shadow of the Cathedral.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has given his award in the Peterborough Cathedral controversy. He advises the appointment by the Dean and Chapter and Restoration Committee of an executive of seventeen to decide the question, failing which his Grace recommends the first plan of rebuilding the tower as originally provided for be adhered to.

It is arranged that the formal ceremony of confirming the election of Canon King to the bishopric of Lincoln, and of Dr. Bickersteth to the bishopric of Exeter, will take place at St. Mary's-le-Bow, Cheapside, on Thursday, the 23rd inst.

The Very Rev. H. B. Bromby, of Jesus College, Cambridge, and who was Dean of Hobart Town, Tasmania, from 1876 to 1884, has been nominated to the important living of St. John's, Bethnal-green, void by the resignation of the Rev. Hugh Hulcatt. The Vicar-designate is son of the Right Rev. Dr. Bromby, Bishop of Tasmania from 1864 to 1882.

Dr. Liddon will preach the sermon at the consecration of the Bishops of Lincoln and Exeter in St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday next. The service will commence at eleven o'clock.

A magnificent organ, one of the largest parish church organs in the country, was opened on Tuesday in Beverley Minster, when a sermon was preached by the Archbishop of York. The instrument, which was built in 1767, has been reconstructed at a cost of £2,500. It contains sixty-six stops and 3,534 pipes.

A cheque for £1,000 has been presented to Dr. Bickersteth, the new Bishop of Exeter, as a testimonial of affectionate regard, by present and former members of the congregation of Christ Church, Hampstead, of which church he had been the highly-esteemed vicar for thirty years. It is also intended to erect a mission-hall at Hampstead, to be called "The Bickersteth Memorial-hall."

Canon Basil Wilberforce is seriously indisposed. He had a relapse in the early part of the week, and Sir Andrew Clark, who has been called into consultation, has ordered six weeks' complete rest.

The Right Rev. Dr. Temple, who was introduced by the Bishops of Newcastle and Chichester, took his seat in the House of Lords on Monday, on his translation from the see of Exeter to that of London. The Bishop of Llandaff took his seat on Tuesday. The Bishop of Truro is the next entitled to a seat.

The Convocations of Canterbury and York agreed in 1884 that the Day of Intercession for Missions should be held on any day of the week next before Advent, or in the first week of Advent, with preference for the eve of St. Andrew's Day. To this the assent of the Church of America, as well as of the Churches of Australia, South Africa, and other branches of the Anglican Communion has been obtained.—*Guardian*.

The organ in St. Pancras Church, on which at one time Sir Henry Smart played, was reopened on Wednesday night, after restoration and enlargement, at a cost of £1,500. The service was choral, Goss's anthem, "O give thanks," being well rendered, and "The Church's One Foundation," and other hymns, as also the psalms and canticles, being joined in heartily by an immense congregation. Archdeacon Farrar was to have preached, but owing to illness was unable to fulfil his engagement, and the Rector (Canon Spence), at a very short notice, supplied his place.

The Right Rev. Bishop Wilkinson and his family have presented to the church of Walsham-le-Willows a painted window, from the studio of Mr. Taylor, of Berners-street, in memory of their mother, with subjects illustrating the virtue of "Humility," and forming a companion to one illustrative of "Forgiveness," which they recently erected to their father.

Many old Cambridge men will learn with regret the news of the death of the Rev. Henry John Hotham, many years Fellow and late Vice-Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, which happened at the close of last week in consequence of a paralytic seizure. At the time of his decease he was staying at St. Remo in Italy. He was the eldest son of Vice-Admiral Sir Henry Hotham, K.C.B., who died at Malta in 1883 while in command of the Mediterranean fleet. His mother was Lady Frances Anne Juliana Rous, a daughter of the first and sister of the second Earl of Stradbroke. Mr. Hotham was born in the year 1822, and was elected to a scholarship in Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his Bachelor's degree in 1844, and afterwards claimed a Fellowship. He was ordained deacon and priest by the Bishop of Worcester, and held the vicarage of St. Michael's, Cambridge, from 1853 to 1857, when he resigned that preferment. Mr. Hotham lived and died unmarried.

An interesting ceremony was witnessed on Monday when the old Chain Bible of Canterbury Cathedral was replaced in the position it originally occupied, upon what is known as Cranmer's desk, in the north-east aisle of the Cathedral. The volume has undergone very rough usage, probably at the time of the Civil War, but has been carefully preserved in the Cathedral library until a few weeks ago, since which time it has undergone careful renovation. Upon receiving the Bible, the Bishop of Dover said it gave him very great pleasure to replace the volume. It was a very interesting book, published in 1572. The position in which he had just replaced the Bible was undoubtedly constructed in the reign of Henry VIII., and was the place from which the first English Bible was read in the English Church for the benefit alike of the clergy and laity. The Dean of Canterbury, in a brief speech, endorsed the remarks of the Bishop of Dover, and Archdeacon Harrison also spoke.

A beautiful stained-glass window has just been placed in the south aisle of the parish church, Winslow, Bucks, by Dr. Newham, to the memory of his wife, a daughter of the late Mr. D. T. Willis. It is in the Early English style, and the two principal lights portray events in the life of St. Margaret, one showing her tending the lambs of her flock while diligently studying the Holy Scriptures, and the other her martyrdom and treading on the serpent of sin. Angels are depicted in the upper parts of both lights with outspread wings, holding a crown, and at the bottom two angels holding a scroll, on which are the words, "Maria Louisa Newham; died Dec., 1874." A novel feature in the tracery above is the introduction of a life-like portrait of Mrs. Newham, taken a few weeks before her death. The colours are beautifully subdued in tone, and the window may be considered as a gem worthy of the spendidly-restored Church. A short dedicatory service was read by the vicar at the early celebration of the Holy Communion on Easter Day, which was attended by Dr. Newham and his children.

The Bishop of Manchester has addressed the following letter to the editor of the *Manchester Courier*:—

"Sir,—Will you allow me the use of your columns to say a few words to all Christian people in this diocese with reference to the very solemn crisis on the verge of which we stand?

"Matters are rapidly drifting in the direction of war. Many regard it as inevitable. If it should be unhappily declared, it will probably be a war such as, for the sacrifices it will call for and the sufferings it will impose, the nation has not known for seventy years; such as those who were trusting to the influence of Christian principles on the intercourse of nations hoped we might never know again.

"It is not of England's seeking; and neither I nor those whom I desire to address are responsible for, or in any way competent to direct, the measures that will have to be taken, whether it is to come or whether—which may God still grant—it can by any happy interposition be averted.

"But surely the eyes of all need to be opened to the gravity of the situation, and the knees of all who yet believe in prayer will be bent before Him whose 'kingdom ruleth over all,' and who 'worketh all things after the counsel of His own will,' that He will deliver this nation from what I can only regard, whatever may be the issue, as a terrible catastrophe. There are, I feel, worse things than war, and we may even need its discipline. But yet at such a moment, pregnant with such grave consequences, I think I am only doing my duty as a Bishop if I remind Christian people of the duty and power of prayer. I did so in a sermon I preached to a large congregation at Rochdale on Sunday, but I shall be grateful if through your kindness I am enabled to give to my words a still wider utterance."

Lord Penzance has arranged to hear the suit instituted by Mr. James Hawkes against the Rev. James Bell Cox, vicar of St. Margaret's, Prince's-road, Liverpool, at York, on Thursday next. The practices which are to form the subject of inquiry are the use of the Eucharistic vestments, lighted candles, the mixed chalice, undue elevation of the elements, kneeling in the prayer of consecration, ceremonial bowing towards a crucifix, making the sign of the cross when administering the sacrament and in pronouncing the Absolution and Benediction, interpolating the hymn *Agnus Dei* after the prayer of consecration, adopting the eastward position, washing the cup in the presence of the people, and kissing the book after reading the gospel for the day. The English Church Union has undertaken to support Mr. Cox in his defence against the charges.—*Manchester Guardian*.

A movement is stated to be on foot by which Engineer Volunteer Corps throughout the kingdom will be enabled to take part in the design of the Royal Engineers to erect a church at Chatham as a memorial of the late General Gordon. A meeting of commanding officers of Engineer Volunteer Corps or their representatives has been held during the week on the subject in the Levée Room, at the Horse Guards, Whitehall, under the presidency of Colonel David Macliver, of Bristol, by whom the meeting had been convened. Lieutenant-Colonel Plant, of the Gloucestershire Engineers, was appointed secretary and treasurer, and before the meeting separated subscriptions were contributed by several corps, including £25 each from the 1st and 2nd Gloucestershire Engineer Volunteers, and a like amount from the 2nd West Yorkshire (Leeds) Engineer Volunteers.

The Archbishop of York, speaking on Thursday at Sheffield, referred to the Royal Commission on Cathedrals, which had just completed its sittings. It was practically issued in answer to the question, Could anything be done with the Cathedrals that would bring them into closer relation to the life of the Church and its diocesan system? Probably few persons expected a large amount of beneficent change to originate from it. The Cathedral, with its privileges and its natural jealousy of interference, refused to be moulded into conformity with modern ideas of activity. Deans and Chapters were treated with indulgent consideration, partly on account of the magnificent fabrics of which they were trustees. That indulgence, however, would have been more readily given if certain obvious changes could have been introduced, such as the assignment of definite duties to every member of a Cathedral Chapter. A great deal of voluntary service to diocesan and parochial work was already rendered by Cathedral canons, and that these services should be organised and made available for the diocese would not be at all oppressive. So far as he had been able to follow the recommendations of the Commission, he feared the improvements introduced would be but small.

The annual exhibition of ecclesiastical art will take place as usual during the Church Congress, which is to be held this year in the diocese of Winchester, at Portsmouth (on Southsea-common), and from the historic wealth of the diocese it is expected that the loan collection will be more than usually interesting. The exhibition will be held in the splendid assembly rooms of Cawte's Esplanade Hotel, next to Congress Hall, and close to the pier. Many of the leading church furnishers, embroiderers, silversmiths, and glass-painters will be represented, and educational works and appliances will also be included in the exhibition. As in former years a portion of the building will be set aside for church societies and their publications, accommodation being provided for the secretary or representative, who will be there to give information to those requiring it. It is hoped that the clergy of the diocese and others possessing interesting objects, suitable for the loan collection, will generously assist in making the exhibit of ecclesiastical art a representation capable of sustaining the high repute the diocese enjoys in the estimation of antiquaries and archæologists. The loans will embrace goldsmiths' and silversmiths' work, ancient and modern, and ecclesiastical metal work in general, embroidery, needlework, tapestry, wood and ivory carving, ecclesiastical furniture, paintings, drawings, architectural designs for churches and schools, photographs, books, and MSS., and other objects of archæological interest belonging to the churches of the diocese. The collection of disused communion plate is always a special feature of the exhibition. Contributors to the loan collection are requested to send particulars of any proposed exhibit to the manager of the exhibition, Mr. John Hart, 33, Southampton-street, Strand, W.C.

In his sermon at St. Paul's on Sunday afternoon Dr. Liddon contended that our Lord's Resurrection body was the same which was born of the Blessed Virgin and hung upon the cross, and canvassed at length the remark of an accomplished writer who had expressed his surprise at any one believing in a carnal Resurrection, and regretted that the Jews had not burnt instead of buried their dead, as then he thought a spiritual view of the Resurrection would have been taken. The preacher then showed that the term "carnal" was an ambiguous one, owing to its having been used by St. Paul of sins of the flesh; but Christ was sinless, and the word as applied by the writer meant merely a literal matter-of-fact resurrection, while his view of "spiritual" probably was something which presented itself attractively to the human mind, but had no certain place whatever in the sphere of external facts. He said that Christian reverence shrunk from discussing the cremation of our Lord's sacred body; but had it been burned, there would have been no difference, save in the sphere of the imagination, for each resurrection would be equally miraculous, and faith would have been as strong whether one usage or the other had prevailed in Judæa. Having shown that the Resurrection was at once carnal and spiritual, as far as our Lord's body was endowed with new properties which suspended some of the ordinary laws of matter, Dr. Liddon entered at length into the twofold character of religion as like a sacrament consisting of outward and visible signs and inward and spiritual powers, the latter of which were far more important than when she challenged our faith as represented by a visible Church, a settled ministry, public buildings, all her machinery in a Christian nation, and the poetry and philosophy of the Bible, or the good works and characters of her members.

THE COURT.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice, and several members of the Royal Household, attended Divine service on Sunday at the English church at Aix-les-Bains; the Rev. D. L. M'Anally, secretary of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, officiating. Her Majesty and the Princess, attended by Lady Churchill, drove out in the afternoon.

Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice have taken drives daily.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Princess of Wales, through her private secretary, has forwarded from Marlborough House a picture of considerable value for the ward of the Princess Alice Memorial Hospital at Eastbourne, in which medical institution the Royal Family has taken great interest since it was opened by her Royal Highness and the Prince of Wales some years ago.

The Prince of Wales has accepted the invitation of the Board of Management of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen-square, Bloomsbury, to open their new building during the month of June. The new hospital, of which the west block forms a memorial to the late Duke of Albany, has been erected at a cost of nearly £80,000, of which all but a balance £6,500 is provided.

The deaths have been announced during the past week of the Earl of Selkirk, the Countess Selborne, Viscountess Ashbrook, Viscountess Parker, Dowager Lady Cremorne, Admiral of the Fleet Sir George Rose Sartorius, and the Right Hon. George Swan Nottage, Lord Mayor of London. The funeral of the Lord Mayor will take place to-day (Saturday) in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Owing to the death of Colonel the Hon. Everard Primrose, in the Soudan, the Earl of Rosebery will be unable to preside at the anniversary dinner of the Royal Literary Fund on Wednesday, the 6th of May. The chair will therefore be filled by Lord John Manners, M.P.

Replying to a deputation from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, asking that applications for trade-marks should be dealt with in Manchester, Mr. Chamberlain said to make Manchester independent of London would cause the greatest confusion. Short of appointing a Committee of Experts, he was willing to put Manchester on the same footing as before the change.

The Sportsman's Exhibition was opened on Thursday morning at the Agricultural Hall. It includes a large variety of appliances used in every branch of sport and pastime.

The School Board for London reassembled on Thursday after the Easter recess. An ineffectual attempt was made by the Rev. G. M. Murphy to induce the Board to present a petition to Parliament in favour of educational endowments, landed property and ecclesiastical revenues being to some extent made available towards the reduction of the education rate. The Board agreed that a peripatetic plan of teaching mechanics should be tried in Olga-street School and in about twenty of the neighbouring schools in Hackney and the Tower Hamlets.

A largely-attended public meeting, over which the Lord Mayor presided, was held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Thursday, at which resolutions were carried that the meeting viewed with deep concern and anxiety the present state of the Navy, and pressing on the Government the necessity of taking immediate steps to provide such additional ships, guns, and men as shall afford the security which our Empire and commerce require, and that the meeting was convinced that in any financial scheme necessary in the public interests, the Government would have the hearty co-operation of all classes. The principal speakers were Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P., Admiral Sir J. Hay, M.P., and Sir E. Reed, M.P.

The late Lord Mayor of London had consented to preside at the seventh annual meeting of the Church of England Funeral and Mourning Reform Association, which was to have been held in the Mansion House, London, yesterday, the very day before that on which his own funeral will take place. The meeting was, as a matter of course, postponed.

A solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated on Thursday morning for the late Right Rev. Robert Aston Coffin, Bishop of Southwark, at St. Mary's, Clapham, with which church the Bishop was for many years connected. In the centre of the church, which was draped with black, was a lofty catafalque, all round the base of which were arranged choice wreaths of delicate white lilac and azaleas, and the sides were flanked with tall wax lights. There was a large congregation in spite of the wet morning. The funeral discourse was preached by the Rev. T. E. Bridgett.

The Rev. Canon Fremantle presided on Thursday at the Westminster Palace Hotel, over a conference called by the International Arbitration and Peace Association, to consider the possibilities of a peaceful settlement of the difficulties that had arisen on the Afghan frontier question, when it was unanimously resolved that any difference which might arise between the Russian and British Governments during the negotiations ought to be referred to the good offices of a friendly Power for arbitration, before appealing to arms; and that it was desirable that the Russian and Afghan forces should at once be withdrawn from the disputed territory.

Archdeacon Farrar presided on Thursday evening at the Whitfield Tabernacle over a crowded public meeting in support of the early closing movement.

The anniversary festival of the British Orphan Asylum, Slough, is announced to take place at the Cannon-street Hotel, on Friday, the 24th inst., when the Bishop of Ripon will preside.

Less than a thousand of the working classes responded to the appeal of "the Social Democratic Federation" to meet on the Embankment on Sunday afternoon, and march to Hyde Park, to demand, among other things, a reduction in the hours of labour and the provision by the State of work for the unemployed. When the speakers ascended the three platforms in the Park the crowd had increased to about ten thousand persons. None of the recognised leaders of the working classes appeared on the platforms, from which identical resolutions were put, the tone of the speeches being indicated by the hope expressed by one of the chairmen that forty thousand men armed with rifles would march into the park and enforce their rights.

The Right Hon. A. J. Mundella, M.P., speaking at the distribution of prizes in connection with the Hanley School of Art on Wednesday evening, referred at some length to the future of the English people and to the bearing which science and art would have upon England's position both socially and commercially. He said that during the present century the population of Great Britain had trebled itself, and it was often asked what should be done with the English people if they continued to increase at this rate? Why, those at home would have to carry the comforts of English life and English industries to the temperate zones of the world. England's future greatness depended upon her industries, but she had been too long content with her pre-eminent position in this respect. Art and science should be applied more to the industries of the country, and it was only by this means that England would be able to compete with countries like France, Germany, and Italy. To enable the English people to maintain a prosperous future both at home and abroad her sons and daughters should receive such training and education that everything they touched would be better in point of utility and quality, and more attractive in the way of beauty, than the productions of other people.

On Saturday afternoon, a brass tablet bearing the following inscription was placed in the inquest-room at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's-inn-road, in memory of Dr. Samuel Rabbeth, who in October last lost his life while endeavouring to save that of a patient:—"This tablet has been erected by the authorities of the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's-inn-road, and the medical staff, to the memory of Samuel Rabbeth, M.B., M.R.C.S., senior resident medical officer of this hospital, who sacrificed his own life in the endeavour to save that of a little child, a patient under his care. Died 20th October, 1884; aged twenty-six years." A committee, of which the Archbishop of Canterbury is president, intend to establish at King's College, of which the deceased gentleman was a member, a scholarship to be named after him.

A Blue Book issued on Thursday contains some statistics compiled by the Education Department respecting School Boards and school attendance committees. From the tables given, it appears that of the total population of England and Wales (census 1881), 25,974,439, the proportion under School Boards was 16,153,855, and under school-attendance committees 9,820,584. The jurisdiction of School Boards, exclusive of the metropolis, extends over 144 boroughs and 2,823 civil parishes; whilst 109 boroughs, 73 urban sanitary districts, and 579 unions are educationally governed by school-attendance committees.

At an inquest recently held on the body of a boy of eleven, named Henry Gore, son of a painter in Whitfield-street, Tottenham-court-road, it was deposed that a teacher at the Warrington-road (Notting-hill) School had been in the habit of boxing his ears because he was dull at his lessons. The jury found the following verdict:—"That the deceased died from the mortal effects of tuberculosis on the brain and abscesses of the eye and ear, and that the said death arose from natural causes. But having heard in evidence that the teacher was in the habit of striking the deceased on the ears at school, they would strongly condemn such a system of corporal punishment, with the view of preventing the same in other cases, and they would point out that in the present case the dulness of the deceased at his school work, for which he was punished, was due to physical causes over which the deceased had no control."

Lady John Manners assisted on Tuesday at a concert given by Canon and Lady Adeliza Norman for the coffeehouse and library at Bottesford, and at the request of Canon Norman made some remarks, in which she expressed a hope that before long a collection of books would be added to every coffeehouse. The masterpieces of literature could now be had in popular editions for a very small sum, and she believed that the frequenters would gladly pay for the use of books. She briefly sketched the ten years' work of Miss Robinson, "the Soldiers' Friend," and mentioned that every soldier leaving England in a troopship on foreign service receives a book from her institute. She alluded to the institute Miss Robinson is establishing at Alexandria, and added that Miss Weston sends a monthly letter to every ship in Her Majesty's Navy. After mentioning that it was a Scotch saying, "the world would be clean if every man would sweep before his ain door," she concluded by referring to the irreparable loss those interested in the promotion of these works had sustained by the death of Lord Cairns. She said the audience and those who had assisted were acting in George Herbert's spirit expressed in his lines:—

Be useful where thou livest, that they may
Both want and wish thy pleasing presence still.
Kindness, good parts, great patience are the way
To compass this. Find out men's wants and will
And meet them there. All wordly joys go less
To the one joy of doing kindnesses.

Mr. Ruskin has once more resigned his Professorship of Fine Art at Oxford. It is now nearly sixteen years since he was first elected to the Slade Professorship, and from that time his lectures have probably attracted more attention both inside and outside of the university than those of any other of its professors; but it cannot be denied that his energy and enthusiasm for art have more to do with his popularity than any other quality. His munificent gift of a large sum of money in 1871 for the purpose of making the Taylorian Galleries at Oxford more useful will not be readily forgotten. Mr. Ruskin's re-election to the professorship in the spring of 1876 was followed by an attack of illness, which made the performance of his duties somewhat irregular. Since then Mr. W. B. Richmond has held the post for a time, and delivered some of the lectures from 1879 till 1882, at which last date Mr. Ruskin resumed the office which he now resigns. As a gentleman commoner and an honorary student of Christ Church, and also as an honorary Fellow of Corpus, the ties which bind him to the university are many.

There was a large attendance on Wednesday afternoon at Exeter-hall at a conference convened to consider the results of a census recently taken of the attendance at certain London publichouses on Saturday nights. The Bishop of London presided. Mr. G. Calvert stated that the census of the drinking which went on in publichouses on Saturday nights between the hours of nine and twelve had been taken in a district of each quarter of London. The results showed that in the south, in fifty houses, there had entered during the three hours 17,347 men, 10,665 women, and 1,645 children; in the west in forty-nine houses, 12,809 men, 7,455 women, and 1,698 children had entered; in the north, in fifty-two houses, 11,403 men, 7,731 women, and 1,958 children had entered; and in the east, in 49 houses, 7,246 men, and 4,933 women, and 1,718 children had entered. Thus the total figures showed that in three hours and 200 houses, 48,805 men, 30,784 women, and 7,019 children had entered—or a total of 86,608. The Bishop of London, in opening the proceedings, remarked that the conference differed from other meetings which had been held in the cause of temperance in two respects, for it was called with a view to the consideration of particular facts, and those who had been invited to attend were supposed to be those who wished to learn the truth of the matter. The facts were before the meeting, and it was for the meeting to decide what was their judgment as regarded their own personal conduct in the matter, and as regarded what should be urged upon others and upon the Legislature. It was plain that these facts could not be put aside as if they were of small importance. The question of housing the poor and the question of drink were very much akin, and the one inquiry could not be properly carried out unless the evils arising from drink were recognised and dealt with. He did hesitate to say that if this intemperance were prevented or reduced more would be done in the way of charity than could be done by any amount of money bestowed upon the poorer classes. There was no greater difficulty which stood between the clergy and the people than the prevalence of drink. Canon Fleming moved that the Conference, having had under its consideration the startling returns of the Saturday night public-house census, would urge upon the devout and earnest attention of all Christians the imperative necessity of personal abstinence from the use of all alcoholic liquors as a beverage. He congratulated the diocese of London that almost the first public remarks of its new Bishop should be upon the important question of temperance. The Rev. F. Hastings seconded the motion, which was supported by the Bishop of Bedford, and carried unanimously. Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., moved, and Mr. W. Fowler, M.P., seconded, that the conference regarded with intense concern the fact revealed by the census recently taken of the large number of children visiting publichouses, and earnestly prayed Her Majesty's Government so to legislate that children under the age of twelve years should not be supplied, either for their own use or that of others, with intoxicating drinks. The resolution was carried, and a committee having been appointed the meeting terminated.

It is not so often that philanthropy, 5 per cent. interest, and good security go together; but the present position of the Marylebone Baths, which were first opened on a small tentative scale with a capital of £21,650, prove that these elements are not always incompatible. Up to the year 1872 the baths had returned a net profit of £16,000, which has since increased considerably. During the past season the number of bathers amounted to 200,000, frequently amounting to 3,000 per day during the summer months, when the strain is very heavy; and this exclusive of 26,000 washers, for whom washing-tubs, unlimited hot and cold water, and steam are provided at the nominal cost of 1½d. per hour. During the winter months, all the baths have been thoroughly renovated and re-decorated throughout under the direction of Mr. Owen Marchant, the assistant-superintendent, who has introduced and carried out several important improvements. The baths evidently pay well to all concerned, and what one local authority has achieved another can accomplish.

Judging by results, the principle upon which the British Empire Mutual Life Assurance Company was established—viz., that all profits should belong to the members—has proved how far-sighted were those who took the initiatory steps in its foundation, for we learn that since its establishment no less a sum than £847,000 has been divided as profits. This fact alone is sufficient to show how extensive is the business done by the Company, which can boast of an annual income of £200,000, and an accumulated fund, arising solely from premiums, exceeding £1,000,000, while upwards of £1,000,000 have been paid in claims. Such a financial success is seldom met with, and it says much for the energy and rare business capacity of the secretary, Edwin Bowley, Esq., that the development of the undertaking has been so rapid and that such unprecedented prosperity has been attained. It is interesting to notice one or two of the main principles upon which this gigantic business is conducted. We have already remarked that all profits belong to the members. These bonuses are declared triennially, after a careful valuation of the business has been made, and as a rule exceed 20 per cent. on the premiums paid. Another consideration is this, that provided the age of the assured has been declared, policies issued by the Company are absolutely indisputable after five years; while, except in very unhealthy climates, the assured can travel or reside in any part of the world without extra charge. These facts are an evidence of the liberality of the Company, and it is not surprising, therefore, that such magnificent results have been achieved.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending April 11 was—medical 453, surgical 189; total 642, of which 274 were new cases.

Anyone afflicted with stammering or stuttering should read a little book (written by a gentleman who cured himself after suffering for more than thirty years), to be had from the Author, Mr. B. Beasley, Green Bank House, Hall Green, near Birmingham, for 13 stamps.

CAUTION.—WATER FILTRATION.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. In the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council it has been distinctly stated that the old sponge filters are of no avail for purifying water. These filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the ONLY FILTERS, containing nothing but the purest ANIMAL CHARCOAL, are those supplied by the LONDON AND GENERAL WATER-PURIFYING COMPANY (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately-flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette.*—Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in Packets, labelled—"JAMES EPPS and Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London."—Also makers of Epps's Chocolate Essence.

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The Pickwick, the Owl, and the Waverley Pen."
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PENMAKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES (Estab. 1770)

BIRTHS.

April 7, at King's School, Peterborough, the wife of the Rev. E. J. CUNNINGHAM, of a son.

April 11, Lady MARGARET ORMSBY GORE, of a son.

April 11, the wife of the Rev. J. E. SYMES, M.A., Head Master of Bancroft's Hospital, of a son.

April 11, the Lady BRAYE, of a son.

April 12, at Exeter, the Hon. Mrs. WALTER COURTENAY PEPYS, of a son.

April 12, at Wickham Market, the wife of the Rev. E. PERCY WEATHERELL, of a daughter.

April 12, at Berkhamsted, Herts, the wife of the Rev. LEWIS GODOLPHIN PETER, of a daughter.

April 12, at Tower House, King's Teignton, Newton Abbot, the wife of the Rev. H. ELLIS DUNN, of a son.

April 14, at Bagenden Rectory, Cirencester, the wife of the Rev. G. E. REES, of a son.

April 14, at Old Swinford Rectory, Stourbridge, the wife of Rev. C. S. WORDSWORTH, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

April 8, at St. Mary's, Spring-grove, Isleworth, WILLIAM BLOMEFIELD TRIPP, youngest son of the late Rev. R. H Tripp, M.A., Vicar of Altarnun, to ROSE HARRIET, youngest daughter of the late Rev. P. L. SANDBERG, M.A., Rector of Northrepps, Norfolk.

April 8, at Bickleigh, CHARLES FETHERSTONHAUGH, to DORA FRANCES, second daughter of the Rev. R. B. CAREW, Rector of Bickleigh, Tiverton, Devon.

April 8, at St. Thomas's, Haverfordwest, FREDERICK WILLIAM STORRY, M.R.C.S., of Stroud, Gloucestershire, to BEATRICE ELIZA, second daughter of the Rev. WILLIAM SCOTT, Vicar of Slebech and Minwere.

April 8, at Holton St. Peter, NESTOR ISIDORE CHARLES TIRARD, M.D. Lond., to HELEN MARY, second daughter of the Rev. ROBERT SEPPINGS BELOE, Rector of Holton St. Peter, Suffolk.

April 9, at St. Philip's, Burwash Weald, Sussex, ALFRED, youngest son of the late Captain FREDERICK HOLLAND, R.N., to EDITH SHULDHAM, third daughter of Rev. W. W. GILBERT-COOPER, Vicar of Burwash Weald.

April 9, at St. Mark's Church, North Audley-street, ARTHUR THOMAS, second son of the late THOMAS ASHWELL, Esq., of Nottingham, to GWENDOLINE, younger daughter of the late Rev. JOHN COWEN, Vicar of Rathconnel, county Westmeath.

April 9, at St. Michael's-on-Wyre, Garstang, Lancashire, RICHARD HEYWOOD, fourth son of S. H. THOMPSON, Esq., of Thingwall, Liverpool, to ANN LUCY, second daughter of the Ven. Archdeacon HORNBY.

April 9, at North Creake, Norfolk, HERBERT COWIE, H.M. Inspector of Schools, son of the Dean of Exeter, to KATHARINE LOUISA, daughter of the Rev. J. N. SIMPKINSON, Rector of North Creake.

April 9, at the parish church, Islington, GEORGE FLETT, of Wick, Caithness, to EVELYNE MAUDE, fourth daughter of the Rev. Dr. WAINWRIGHT.

April 9, at St. James's, Belfast, the Rev. HENRY W. PATE, M.A., Head Master of Bristol Cathedral School, to ROBINA LOWE (RUBY), second daughter of Colonel JOHN GLANCY.

April 9, at Newcastle Cathedral, HENRY, son of the late Rev. FRANCIS THOMPSON, Vicar of St. Giles', Durham, to MARY, youngest daughter of the late EDWARD MATHER, Esq., of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

April 9, at the Ladye Chapel, Hereford Cathedral, GEORGE HAMILTON FENNER, B.A., late of Hertford College, Oxford, to CICELY BEATRICE, eldest daughter of the Rev. JAMES BROWN, B.A., Hereford.

April 9, at the Cathedral, Cork, EDWARD GILBERT FRANCIS LAW, Lieutenant Commanding H.M. gunboat *Orwell*, younger son of the late Rev. R. V. Law, formerly Rector of Christian Malford, Wilts, to ELIZABETH ANNE, second daughter of the late Rev. JOSEPH STOPFORD, of Fermoy, Blackrock, Cork.

April 11, at the parish church, Henley-on-Thames, GEORGE WILKINSON ROLFE, Rector of Swanton Novers, Norfolk, to EDITH, eldest daughter of THOMAS SHEWARD, Gravel-hill, Henley-on-Thames.

April 11, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, JOHN MAYNE COLLES, of 14, Ely-place, Dublin, Barrister-at-law, to ELIZABETH AGNES, second daughter of the late Rev. CHARLES DICKINSON, Rector of Bodmin, Cornwall.

April 14, at St. Mark's Church, Reigate, the Rev. MALCOLM C. BAYNES, son of Sir W. J. W. Baynes, Bart., to MARGARETTA, elder daughter of the Rev. ARTHUR CAZENOVE, Vicar of St. Mark's, Reigate, Rural Dean, and Hon. Canon of Rochester.

DEATHS.

April 4, on board the *Kaisar-i-Hind*, the Viscountess PARKER.

April 4, at his residence, 40, Belvidere-place, Dublin, CHRISTOPHER JAMES COUNTNUGENT, of Killasonna, county Longford.

April 7, at All Saints' Glebe, Grangegorman, Dublin, JANE COOKE, wife of the Rev. WM. MATURIN, D.D.

April 7, at Pau, France, the Hon. Lady DUNCAN (née Crawford), widow of Captain the Hon. Sir Henry Duncan, R.N., aged 79. Friends at home will please accept of this (the only) intimation.

April 9, at Nutley-lane Parsonage, Reigate, ANNIE, the only surviving daughter of the late H. T. ADAMSON, B.D., formerly Vicar of Benthall, Salop.

April 9, at her residence, 26, Queen's-gate-terrace, S.W., EMILY THEOPHILA, Viscountess ASHBROOK, widow of the 4th Viscount Ashbrook and daughter of Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe, 1st Baronet, in her 95th year.

April 9, at Brantham Court, Manningtree, ELIZABETH, widow of the late Rev. EDWARD HOGG, Rector of Fornham St. Martin, Bury St. Edmunds, in her 86th year.

April 10, at Drayton House, Thrapstone, unexpectedly, the LADY EDITH WYNDHAM QUIN, third daughter of the late Earl of Dunraven.

April 10, at Dibden Rectory, LOUISA, the beloved wife of the Rev. EDW. CARLTON.

April 10, at Bournemouth, GERALDINE, the dearly-loved second daughter of the Rev. C. H. NEWMARCH, Rector of Wardley-cum-Belton, Rutland, aged 22.

April 11, at 34, Prince's-gate, the Dowager Lady CREMORNE.

April 11, at St. Mary's Isle, the Earl of SELKIRK, in his 76th year.

April 13, at his residence, East Grove, Lymington, Hants, Admiral of the Fleet Sir GEORGE ROSE SARTORIUS, G.C.B., in his 95th year.

LATEST NEWS.

St. Petersburg, April 17.

The *Official Messenger* of this morning states that a despatch which reached St. Petersburg yesterday from General Komaroff reports as follows:—The Afghans have evacuated all the posts on the frontier. Our outposts occupy their former positions. Our detachment is in Dash Kepri. I shall proceed in a few days to inspect the troops at the outposts.

Souakim, April 17.

Three columns, one from Souakim, another from Handoub, and the third from Otao, will advance on Deberet at daybreak to-morrow, and will endeavour to surround the enemy,

Cairo, April 17.

The formal protest of the French Government against the action of the Egyptian authorities in suppressing the *Bosphore Egyptien* reached here to-day. The document is couched in courteous but decided terms.

The Central News states that the prospects of peace are fully maintained. A definite arrangement is believed certain, unless General Komaroff by further overt acts provokes a conflict. The Central News is informed that Lord Dufferin has telegraphed to the Government that Penjdeh is not worth fighting for. The Cabinet have adopted this view, and there is every reason to believe that the delimitation of the frontier will be carried to a successful issue.

Replying to Sir Stafford Northcote in the House of Commons last night, Mr. Gladstone said:—"We are in possession of no full account, but a request has been addressed to Sir P. Lumsden asking for a full and consecutive account of what has transpired. A telegram has arrived which is in course of being deciphered, which may contain that account, but it will be necessary to have it compared with accounts that may be received elsewhere before we shall be in a position to give any conclusive judgment to the House upon it. We have, however, an independent telegram from Sir P. Lumsden which clears up an important point. The House will no doubt remember when on the announcement of the engagement of the 30th of March I used these words, 'that Captain Yate said the chief of the Russian army had assured him that no such arrangement as that referred to in our telegram of the 17th of March, as to the non-advance of the Russians, had been received." The House will remember that, because it produced a certain sensation. (Hear, hear.) There was no date attached to the meeting between Captain Yate and the Chief of the Russian Staff. It must, of course, have been before the 29th of March, and we see now that it must have been two or three days before the 29th; for to-day we have a telegram from Sir P. Lumsden, containing an account of some further communications between Captain Yate and the Chief of the Russian Staff, who, writing on the 28th of March, says he has received a notification from our side respecting the account Lord Granville had given, and the arrangement which had been made, and that what was stated by Lord Granville was in accordance with the orders received by us. Consequently, on the 28th of March the Russian officers were in possession of the orders given by the Russian Government in conformity with the arrangement of March 17. The question of acting upon those orders is a matter that remains, of course, for future consideration; but the point of communication of the orders is so far disposed of. (Hear, hear.) I am inclined to think that probably the communication was made as soon as the Russian officers upon the spot could have received the orders sent from St. Petersburg in conformity with the arrangement of March 17. There is nothing else of a conclusive character in the telegram from Sir P. Lumsden, nor is there anything of an unfavourable character at all as to the communications that are going on.

Lord Carnarvon, speaking at Manchester on Thursday evening, alluded to the uneasiness in the public mind owing to the uncertainty of peace or war, and urged the importance of our guarding against the drifting process by which we were carried into the Crimean war. "In spite of profession and assurance, advance after advance has been made by the Russian Empire, until a very narrow zone divides us from them. Bokhara, Khiva, Merv, all in turn have gradually been absorbed by that steadily advancing Power, and therefore I say now emphatically—just as I said before when it was a question of Merv—everything depends upon the firmness with which it is made plain to the Russian Government that there are certain limits with reference to our treaties, with reference to our own Indian Empire, which we will not allow to be overpassed." His lordship then asked if we were prepared for war, and said, in spite of every recommendation to the contrary, Her Majesty's Government have allowed the great naval outposts and coaling stations to remain practically undefended, and, in spite of every insistence on our part, they have left the navy in a very inadequate condition, and now, at last, at the eleventh hour, the Government are in hot haste buying up ships wherever they can lay hands on them, making preparations as best they can, and doing everything that half terror and half dismay can inspire.

At the Irish Church General Synod in Dublin yesterday, a resolution was unanimously adopted recording the Synod's sense of the great services of Archbishop Trench, and gratitude for his voluntarily giving his salary of £2,500 a year to the Church during his lifetime. The report of the Representative Church Body, which was presented, stated that the receipts had risen from £147,768 in 1880 to £190,611 in 1884, the latter figure not having been surpassed since 1877; but it included the unusually large sum of £72,414 for special trusts. On the other hand, the receipts on "Assessment Account for Stipends" had fallen from £120,669 in 1883 to £114,204 in 1884. The number of elergymen provided for by annuities under the Disestablishment Act was rapidly diminishing, and the supply of men to fill their places was probably the greatest difficulty to be encountered in the near future. It was necessary that immediate steps should be taken in every diocese to raise funds for the augmentation of small incomes.

SOCIETY.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lord Keane and Mrs. Morrell, widow of the late Right Rev. Bishop Morrell, and daughter of the late Mr. Charles Lane, of Budgemore, Oxfordshire.

Also between Major H. Kingscote, of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, eldest son of the late Mr. Henry Robert Kingscote, and Miss Wolff, only daughter of Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., M.P.

The marriage of the Rev. Archibald Ean Campbell, rector of Castle Rising, Norfolk, eldest son of the late Colonel Walter Campbell, of Skipness, N.B., with the Hon. Helen A. Brodrick, second daughter of Viscount Midleton, took place at St. Nicholas Church, Peper Harow, near Godalming, on Tuesday morning. The wedding party, owing to recent family bereavements, was confined to the nearest relatives of the bride and bridegroom, including Viscountess Midleton, Lord Cottesloe and Hon. Miss Fremantle, the Hon. W. St. J. Brodrick, M.P., and Lady Hilda Brodrick, Mr. and Hon. Mrs. Peek, Hon. Lucy Brodrick, Hon. Mrs. Alan Brodrick, Captain and Mrs. Macneal, of Ugadale, and Mrs. David Ricardo. The Rev. H. R. Johnson was best man. The bridesmaids, six in number, were the Hon. Edith, Hon. Albinia, and Hon. Marian Brodrick, sisters of the bride, and Miss Mary Macneal, niece of the bridegroom, the Hon. Caroline Bruce, and Miss Alice Gaussen. The Hon. and Rev. Canon Brodrick, M.A., vicar of Godalming, uncle of the bride, officiated, assisted by the Rev. Alan Campbell, brother of the bridegroom, and the Rev. Henry Erskine Gedge, rector of the parish, Viscount Midleton giving his daughter away. Viscount and Viscountess Midleton afterwards entertained the wedding party at breakfast at the family residence at Peper Harow, and later in the afternoon the newly-wedded couple left for Cowdray Park, the Earl of Egmont's seat near Midhurst, to spend a few days before starting for the Riviera and Italy.

On the 9th inst. the marriage of Miss Blanche Ann Cadogan, daughter of the Rev. E. Cadogan, rector of Wicken, Bucks, with Mr. William Walter Carlile, only son of Mr. J. W. Carlile, of Gayhurst House, Newport Pagnell, and Ponsborne Park, Herts, was solemnised at the parish church, Wicken, in the presence of a large gathering of relatives and friends. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a dress of ivory white satin with long square train, the petticoat being draped with fine old lace, the gift of her mother. The tulle veil was fastened by a magnificent spray of diamonds, a present from Mr. and Mrs. Carlile, and she wore a necklet and pendant of pearls and diamonds, the gift of the bridegroom. She also carried a bouquet of choice white flowers. The seven bridesmaids were dressed in cream nun's veiling, trimmed with cream lace, white plush caps, and each wore a diamond brooch, and carried bouquets of white and yellow roses, gifts from the bridegroom. The bride was also attended by two pages, Masters Dominic Gregg and Holden Orme Webb, who were dressed in costumes copied from Gainsborough's celebrated picture of the "Blue Boy." The service was choral, the organ being played by Miss Peachey, and the ceremony was performed by the Rev. Arthur Ingilby, incumbent of St. John's, Oban, Argyleshire (brother-in-law of the bride), assisted by the Rev. Charles Jardein, rector of Gayhurst and Stoke Goldington, Bucks. After the service the Rev. E. and Mrs. Cadogan entertained about fifty relatives and friends of both families at breakfast at the rectory. About 2.30 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Carlile left for London *en route* for Paris and the Mediterranean. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Carlile entertained a large party at Gayhurst. The presents were both numerous and costly.

On the 9th inst. a marriage was celebrated in North Creake, Norfolk, between Mr. Herbert Cowie, son of the Dean of Exeter, and Miss Katharine Louisa Simpkinson, daughter of the rector of the parish. The ceremony was fixed for eleven, and shortly after the appointed hour the bride arrived, leaning on the arm of her father. She was met at the church door by her four bridesmaids, dressed in cream Arabian cottons, with white straw hats trimmed with lace; yellow aigrettes and yellow Liberty sashes. Each carried a bouquet of daffodils, and wore a small gold brooch, the gift of the bridegroom. The bride's dress was of soft cream silk, trimmed with lace, and small cream lace bonnet. The ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. the Dean of Llandaff, uncle of the bride, who was given away by her father. Amongst those present were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cowie, the Very Rev. the Dean of Exeter, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cowie, Mrs Edwyn Vaughan, the Rev. Charles and Mrs. Simpkinson, &c. The bride's travelling dress was of brown beige, trimmed with velvet, and brown straw hat, with orange wings. The newly-wedded pair left Creake at one o'clock for Fakenham, *en route* for the Lakes.

The Prime Minister and Mrs. Gladstone entertained at dinner on Wednesday evening, at the right hon. gentleman's official residence in Downing-street, Lord Lyttelton, Sir R. Lingen, Sir Donald Currie, M.P., Sir E. Colebrook, M.P., Mr. Caine, M.P., Mr. T. T. Paget, M.P., Mr. Albert Grey, M.P., Mr. Barran, M.P., Mr. Duckham, M.P., Mr. Dickson, M.P., Mr. Bertram Currie, and Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M.P.

The Duke and Duchess of Westminster have been entertaining a large number of guests during the past week at Eaton Hall, Chester. M. Hallé's band from Manchester was engaged to play each evening both during and after dinner.

The Hon. Mrs. Arden Adderley gave a successful concert and organ recital at Fillongley Hall, Warwickshire, last week in aid of the restoration of the parish church. Among the performers were the Hon. Caroline and the Hon. Frances Adderley, Miss Baker, and Miss Evelyn Stopford, the Rev. J. Baden-Powell, Mr. Royds, and the Hon. James Adderley. Mr. Eyre presided at the organ. The violin was played by the Hon. Edward Thesiger, and the pianoforte accompaniments by Mr. Childe-Pemberton and Mrs. Arden Adderley.

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